Thai general who joined protesters shot
WORLD / A22

Mangudadatu ends reign of Ampatuans
NEWS/A2

San Miguel in talks to sell Purefoods
BUSINESS / B1

Dear Noynoy: Send him a message on Facebook
SUPER/C1

Battle of networks shifts to holograms

By Alcuin Papa

LIKE A SCENE OUT OF "Star Wars," the battle of the networks has reached another level—holograms.

GMA 7 news anchor
BATTLE/A3

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, May 15, 2010 ★★ Vol. 25 / No. 136

GMA can't rely on party; Lakas reign ending in 15th Congress

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Michael Lim Ubac, Julie M. Aurelio and TJ Burgonio

RIN. BENIGNO AQUINO III SEES "A very significant number of legislators "leaving the party of President Macapagal-Arroyo to join his new ruling coalition.

A top party leader said as much.

The incoming 15th Congress could
GMA CAN'T/A4

Noy may be sworn in by barangay captain

BENIGNO AQUINO III: I don't want to take my oath before a questioned entity.

Congress starts nat'l canvass of poll results May 24

PRIMUS INTER PARES Chief Justice Reynato Puno (left) congratulates his successor, Associate Justice Renato Corona, during his retirement rites on Friday at the Supreme Court Session Hall. Puno says sorry to Corona that his "wrong birthday" is causing him "some problems."

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TARLAC CITY—A controversy is in the offing, with presidential front-runner Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III considering being sworn in as President by a barangay captain in his home province, and not by Chief Justice Reynato Puno's successor.

"[The Constitution] says that before assuming office, the President will subscribe under oath. It does not say [before whom]. I am waiting for my lawyers' opinion, but [my oath of office] will probably be before the barangay captain of Tarlac," the Liberal Party standard bearer said yesterday at a press conference.

By tradition, a new President takes his/her oath before the Chief Justice.

In the face of the brewing controversy, Congress is set to resume sessions a week earlier than scheduled to start the national canvassing of election results for president and vice president.

Speaker Prospero Nograles told reporters that he and Sen-
NOY MAY/A4

Comelec told to speed up transmission of poll results

By Julie M. Aurelio, Kristine Alave and Tarra Quismundo

ELECTION WATCHDOG groups yesterday urged the Commission on Elections to speed up the transmission of the remaining 10 or so percent of election results, saying delays tend to cast doubt on the outcome of the elections.

In a press conference yesterday, Koalisyon Desaya said the Comelec must expedite the sending of the remaining results as delays would raise questions on the integrity of the results.

"Further delays open the results to all forms of intervention and possible tampering," said Koalisyon Desaya convenor Fr. Joe Dizon, adding that only 60 out of 274 certificates of canvass were screened at the national canvassing center as of Thursday.

"The recently concluded polls were acceptable to the people, so let us not waste results," he said.

Based on the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting's electronic tally of results from
COMELEC/A6

Puno retires, calls Corona 23rd Chief Justice

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DESPITE THE OUTCRY SPARKED by President Macapagal-Arroyo's action, Chief Justice Reynato Puno resigned her appointment of Associate Justice Renato Corona as his successor.

Speaking at his formal retirement ceremony held yesterday afternoon in the Supreme Court Session Hall, Puno included Corona among those he acknowledged as he stepped down from the bench after 17 years.

"Congratulations to the 23rd Chief Justice of the Philippines, Chief Justice Renato C. Corona. I am sorry that my wrong birthday is causing you some problems," Puno said, eliciting applause from the 13 magistrates seated behind him and the audience that included former justices, government officials, diplomats and court employees.

Corona smiled. Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, the most senior member of the bench whose nomination to the post was withdrawn after he said he would not accept an appointment from Ms Arroyo, briefly clapped but his face was expressionless throughout the three-hour ceremony.

With a showdown imminent between Ms Arroyo and presidential front-runner Benigno Aquino III over the appointment of a new Chief Justice, Puno tried to lighten the mood by
PUNO/A13

Charice hailed soon-to-be Asian superstar in US

NEW YORK—CHARICE HAS already won over the music market. Now she's vying to translate this success to her peers—the teenagers.

The teen wonderkid from the Philippines had wowed audiences with her big voice and Celine Dion covers on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and other programs on TV for the past two years. This week, she appeared on Winfrey's show for the fourth time.

But as she releases her self-titled Daniel Pastor-produced debut album this week, Charice finds herself with a serious challenge as she tries to translate her success with adult audiences to her peers. [See related story in Saturday Special on Page A9.]

Rosen said it was only a matter of time before there's an Asian superstar in the United
CHARICE/A8

Filipinos carry on love affair with PCOS machines

By Randy David

COMMENTARY

THE PRECINCT COUNT OPTICAL scanner (PCOS) did what it was supposed to do—read the votes from the precincts and rapidly transmit the results to computers that automatically add them up at both local and national levels.

With only about 15 percent of the results [as of Thursday] waiting to be transmitted due to mechanical malfunctioning, the country's first nationwide automated election may be judged a success. Short spared wiped out the spare for wholesale cheating.

Without realizing it, the voters had taken a big risk. The machines had not been adequately tested. Major glitches marked their deployment and final testing. The hour over the defective memory cards framed rumors of a coup or martial law declaration.

In the morning of Election Day, long lines of irate voters clogged the precincts, indicating that the nonmechanical aspects of the process had been overlooked. The clustering of precincts created complications. But, in the end, patience and creative improvisation won
FILIPINOS/A15

LOST REELECTION Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio plans to carry on as a positive force to help civil society.

Grace Padaca weeps for Isabela; Among Ed goes back to priesthood

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon,
and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

ILAGAN, ISABELA—DNE WEPT FOR her province as she questioned her defeat. The other, also refusing to concede defeat, vowed to pursue his fight for his people—this time, hopefully, as a priest—again.

Isabela Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo "Grace" Padaca and Pampanga Gov. Eddie "Among Ed" Panlilio—who both had to contend with politically entrenched families—were among the casualties in the country's first automated national elections.

Questioning her loss to Rep. Faustino Dy III in the gubernatorial race, Padaca yesterday said: "I weep for Isabela ... More than my subjects, I wish the Isabelinos well. I wish them success. I wish (for) them good governance."

Speaking at the Governor's Palace, Padaca, a Liberal Party candidate, said she planned to ask the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to investigate reports of vote-buying and the black propaganda that was used against her during the campaign.

"The Dys and the Albanos molded
GRACE/A6

GIFT OF GRACE Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca concedes defeat to Faustino Dy III.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Noynoy will sleep well–Binay

By Norman Bordadora

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY, WHO IS LEADING the vice presidential race in the tallying of election returns, has expressed support for the incoming administration of what now appears to be president-elect Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, whom he calls his friend.

Binay, confident of his chances that he has announced that he had already won the vice presidency, told reporter t hrough the media that he could sleep soundly in the next six years, hearing nothing from the second-in-command.

"Noynoy, you'll be able to sleep well," Binay said in a news conference this week.

"We went through a lot together. We risked our lives many times. Aside from that, from my heart, I will tell you, I will not snatch your post away from you," Binay told Aquino through the reporters covering his post-election activities.

Binay made the remarks as he and his closest rival, Aquino's running mate Sen. Manuel Roxas, remained locked in a close and bitter fight for the vice presidency.

"Noynoy knows that I am ready to help his administration. I am a team player. That President was elected by our countrymen based on the programs and plans that he intends to fulfill," Binay said.

"Why wouldn't I support (those programs) when those are what the people want?" he added.

But Aquino, in his first joint press conference with Roxas since Monday's elections in Tarlac yesterday, said, "I hope the count will be in Mar's (Roxas') favor because he is the partner I need to accelerate the changes I promised the electorate."

Roxas for his part said he and Aquino agreed that Binay could not trust his promise that Aquino could sleep well and not worry he would be stunted if the Makati mayor becomes vice president.

"If he could not remain loyal to his partner (referring to former President Joseph Estrada), much less would he be accurate to our partner," Roxas said.

Binay has close ties not only with Aquino but also with his family.

Binay showed his bid for the presidency in 2009 after Aquino made it known that he was going to give in to the clamor for him to run for president after his mother, former President Corazon Aquino, died in August that year.

Binay and he owes Corazon Aquino a huge debt of gratitude for starting him on his career in local government administration when she appointed him officer-in-charge of Makati shortly after the first EDSA Revolution in 1986.

He insisted that as the vice presidential candidate of Estrada under the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP).

TOGETHER STILL Liberal Party running mates Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Mar Roxas exchange pleasantries during their first joint public appearance, a press conference in Tarlac, since Monday's elections. The two said leading vice presidential candidate Jejomar Binay could not be counted on his statement that Aquino is president, could sleep soundly if Binay is vice president. They accused Binay of backstabbing his running mate, ousted President Joseph Estrada.

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As Mar awaits Visayas votes, Binay keeps lead

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY FROM tranquil in the vice presidential race, has widened the gap between himself and his rival Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas by over 1,1,000 more votes as election returns from nearly 800 more precincts were scanned yesterday.

As of the 5:31 p.m. update from the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), the citizen's arm of the Commission on Elections found at the Pope Pius Center in Manila, Roxas was still ranked in the second spot with 12,870,877 votes.

Binay has so far garnered 13,979,375 votes, widening his lead to 868,869 votes from Thursday night's 793,308 vote-margin.

Out of the 76,475 polling precincts across the country, 68,371 have already transmitted election returns to the Pius server, a small jump from early Thursday's 68,273 precincts.

But votes from Central Visayas, much awaited by the camp of Roxas, the running mate of Senator-elect president Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, still remained unscanned as of 1:30 p.m. yesterday.

Roxas' camp has claimed that the senator will win by a "landslide" against Binay once votes from Central Visayas, his bailiwick, were counted.

Based on the 5:31 p.m. PPCRV update on the data transmission per region, none of the votes from the 5,905 polling precincts have been included in the latest tallies for the presidential, vice presidential and senatorial races.

It was the only region that was not able to transfer data to the Pope Pius server.

The largest number of polling precincts to "transmit" election returns in the Pius server was from Cebu, with 3,11 precincts, —the same number in the 11:00 update the PPCRV provided on Thursday.

PPCRV media and communications director Ana de Villa Elegado earlier explained that it was possible that these provinces had already transmitted the data but had yet to be downloaded into the Pius server.

The Ilocos Region (Region 1) posted the biggest number of precincts whose votes have already been included in the latest update yesterday with 2,6 polling precincts.

Ballots from 1,1 precincts from Central Luzon have also been accounted for, while 9 more precincts in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have also transmitted data yesterday.

The PPCRV was still waiting for 501 precincts in the ARMM, where Binay was leading, to transfer electronically election returns.

Mangudadatu proclaimed, ends reign of Ampatuans

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—THE political landscape in this province has changed with the crushing of the decades-old Ampatuan clan and their allies.

With 153,706 votes, or a margin of more than 13,000 over the votes of his closest rival Ombra Sinsuat, an Ampatuan ally, Buluan Vice Mayor Esmael Mangudadatu was declared governor-elect of the province.

The comeback of the Mindanao clan accused of carrying out the country's worst political massacre also has his election bid for a top governance position.

Andal Ampatuan Sr., who is in jail awaiting trial on murder charges, finished in second place for the post of Maguindanao province vice governor, the chairman of the provincial election commission said yesterday.

Ampatuan Jr. rivalled Mangudadatu's running mate, Esmael Mastura, by nearly 30,000 votes.

The Ampatuans had ruled Maguindanao for a decade, earning reputations as fearsome warlords who used a private army numbering thousands of men to terrorize opponents and voters.

Ampatuan Jr. was governor of Maguindanao one year when 57 people travelling in a convoy were abducted in the province and executed on a remote road.

Ampatuan's sons and namesakes allegedly led the massacre to stop rival Mangudadatu from challenging him for the governorship in the election.

Mangudadatu's wife and two sisters, who were travelling to an election office to register his candidacy for the governorship, as well as 31 accompanying journalists, were among those killed.

Despite the massacre, Mangudadatu continued with his election campaign. He testified, he arrived on board a military armored personnel carrier as the provincial capital here, which is only a few meters away from the mansions of the Ampatuans, at around 3 p.m. yesterday.

Around 6 p.m., Mangudadatu was proclaimed governor even if the Commission on Elections admitted that results from six more town had not been canvassed.

Benjamin Macas-sudarus, acting Maguindanao election supervisor, said poll officials decided to set aside the results from Datu Hoffak Sinsuat, a bailiwick of Sinsuat, because even if all the votes there picked the Ampatuan-ally Mangudadatu would still be leading by more than 2,000 votes.

"I'm thankful to the people, they have indeed spoken for the truth and change in the governorate of Maguindanao. I will work to effect change and bring order in the province. By voting for change, we will realize the true development of Maguindanao and its people," Mangudadatu said.

Rose May de Guzman, Inquirer Mindanao, with a report from AFP

FULFILLING ELECTION PROMISE

Noynoy: Why should Kris leave?

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

TARLAC CITY—"WHAT HAS SHE DONE wrong?"

Incoming President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III posed this question to the thousands who logged on to an online petition on Facebook for his sister, television host and actress Kris Aquino, to fulfill her promise of hosting the country if he won as president.

Aquino is currently leading by more than 11 million votes over former President Joseph Estrada in the partial tally of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

"She is a citizen of the republic, she has not committed any crime, why should she leave the country? You can't please every one," said Aquino in a press conference here.

Kris had acknowledged that she was clueless by her brother's campaign and declared two months ago that she would pack up and continue her career abroad. A "despedida" page on Facebook was launched shortly after Aquino started leading in the presidential race results. More than 7,000 have signed on asking Kris to live up to her promise.

Online petition

Aquino was linking the online petition to friends. "If my sister leaves, the lives of my nephews Josemaa and Baby James will be disrupted. For what reason? What did she do? What are the allegations that she did [anything] wrong? There is no allegation but they want punishment. I don't think that's fair," he said.

In the same press conference, Aquino refused to say if he would settle down with his current squeeze, Valenzuela City Councilor Shalani Soledad.

"The Iloilo Dilo of the Nation Address! first," said the 50-year-old bachelor when asked if he had plans of getting married soon.

He also said he did not believe in having a child out of wedlock, adding that the right way was marriage first, then children.

Aquino yesterday broke his two-day hiatus at the ancestral home in Hacienda Luisita and announced that he would be back in Manila today to meet a cancer-stricken supporter.

"I will meet a child who is suffering from cancer and who happens to be a very strong supporter of mine. I really want to give some comfort to the kid who stood by me and who campaigned for me for such a long time," he said.

Aquino was planning to take a break after concluding several meetings with his staff. He also said he would follow the recommendation of his security team that he limit his movements until his proclamation as president.

"Something might happen to me if I am not yet proclaimed. We shouldn't risk the aspirations of the people who supported us by taking unnecessary distances," he said.

Pacquiao KOs old dynasty, is proclaimed

PACQUIAO

By Aquiles Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

ALABEL, SARANGANI —Boxing hero Manny Pacquiao has been declared winner of the congressional race in Sarangani province after the contending camps claimed him in counting his results about 60,000 votes.

Pacquiao, who obtained 120,052 votes, was proclaimed representative of the lone district of Sarangani at midnight Thursday.

Pacquiao's wife is considered historic for ending the political dominance of one of the country's oldest political families.

His opponent, Roy Chiongbian, is a scion of the Chiongbians who have been in power in the region for more than 30 years. Many politicians have attempted to challenge the Chiongbians' leadership in the past but failed.

In his remarks, Pacquiao extended a reconciliatory hand to his opponents, saying he wished to work with them for the good of the province.

Gigantic task

"My victory did not end our quest, rather it marked the start of gigantic task to work for the improvement of the people's lives," he told his supporters.

Pacquiao said he would concentrate on the campaign promises he made, which include the setting up of a provincial hospital.

Sarangani does not have a provincial hospital and sick indigents have to be taken to General Santos City, almost an hour's drive from this town, for treatment.

Pacquiao also said he would work for the establishment of livelihood programs for the poor, particularly the farmers and the fishermen.

Athletes' welfare

He said his priority in Congress would be the passage of laws that would uplift the condition of athletes, priests and advance their interests.

He also pledged to help poor but deserving children to pursue an education.

"I would see to them how I struggled hard just to get to school, but because of poverty, my mother could not afford to send me to school," said Pacquiao, who first said he had wanted to be a priest when he was young.

He said he would see what laws are still needed to help the poor in terms of education.

And if he fails to deliver on his promises during his three years in Congress, voters should reject him in the next elections, Pacquiao said.

"Help me also by monitoring my performance as a public official," he said.

Gracious loser

Roy, the youngest son of the late vice governor Jaime Chiongbian and former governor Priscilla Chiongbian, was graciously defeat.

He rallied on all residents to rally behind Pacquiao and other provincial officials.

He said the Chiongbians will support the newly elected officials—including Pacquiao—to make the province a safe and livable place to live in.

Pacquiao's mother, Dionisia, who celebrates her 81st birthday today said her son's victory was the greatest birthday gift she has received.

She said it will be a double celebration for the Pacquiao family.

Among the invited guests are Imelda Marcos, the widow of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and singer-politician Imelda Papin.

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P878	Manila to Cauayan (Isabela) or Iloilo	P1,288	Manila to Puerto Princesa Cebu to Clark or Legaspi
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BDO

GMA can't rely on party; Lakas reign ending in 15th Congress

Pursuant to I

very well see the end of the dominance of the nation's politics by the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD, said Gov. Jesse Miguel Robredo, the party's vice president for Mindanao.

"The dominant party in the last Congress might become the nation's party. That's what happens to all dominant parties," said Zubiri.

Zubiri, who is himself taking "a more independent stance," said the Lakas-Kampi-CMD should now take to the sidelines and "let the other parties shine."

According to two ruling-party officials, the Lakas-Kampi-CMD is keeping its options open in the incoming 15th Congress, including possibly robbing an alliance with the Conscience and Reform (CORE) coalition of the Liberal Party in the House.

The CORE, known to be backed by presidential frontrunner Sen. Benigno Aquino, is reportedly fielding newly elected Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte to the speakership race against the expected bid of Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo.

No party decision on GMA

They noted that the party retained the single biggest bloc in the House (130 have been proclaimed so far).

They said its members have unanimously voted to move as a single bloc in the speakership race.

This decision was reached during a well-attended, informal meeting on Thursday night where the members elected Mr. Arroyo as the party chair in the 15th Congress.

But the officials, who refused to be quoted because they were not authorized to speak for the party, said the party has not yet decided whether to field Mr. Arroyo for the speakership.

They said that it was possible the Lakas-Kampi-CMD could join the CORE coalition and back Belmonte.

Lakas-Kampi-CMD rejected heads are set to meet next week with Belmonte and his LP allies to discuss their possible decision to join the CORE coalition.

In a press conference in Tarlac yesterday, Aquino said he expected "very significant numbers" of legislators to join the CORE coalition once the 15th Congress opens in July.

Aquino said that he was willing to work with all legislators, including those who ran under opposing groups in the last election.

He said it was his job to ensure that his administration would focus many efforts in Congress to help advance his agenda.

"Mrs. Arroyo is the titular head of the coalition now but come the next Congress that is another person. I will be dealing with in Mindanao and I am now more or less people if not a whole lot of them , will choose to go under as rather than the previous dispensation," said Aquino.

Aquino said he has no problem working with allies of his late mother, former President Cory Aquino, but he said he would be for the good of the country.

"When I entered into this, I was ready to sacrifice everything for the common good," he said.

With a projected 208-member core in the House, the CORE alliance will need to get at least 141 votes to install Belmonte as speaker.

The LP currently has 44 elected members and has started negotiations with the Nacionalista Party, Lakas-Kampi and other parties for groups.

Deputy Majority Leader Hermilando Mandanas II, who supported Aquino in the elections, said he was confident that CORE would get the members to elect Belmonte, saying the Lakas-Kampi members would gravitate toward Aquino after his proclamation.

Positioning for speakership

Ms Arroyo, who won a congressional seat in her Pampanga hometown, is headed for Congress after June 30 where she is likely to build a new political base.

Her critics say that she will use her position as chief executive to provide protection for the alleged crimes committed in her administration.

Already, some of her closest allies have reminded the still for Ms Arroyo to go for the Speakership.

Zubiri earlier said 106 Arroyo allies has the support of 80 reelected House members.

Zubiri said Ms Arroyo was so focused on getting a majority in the House that the potential funding for congressional candidates over local candidates during the election.

She seemed to have a big swing bloc on her side, with the support of not just the ruling party, but also of the Nationalist People's Coalition and Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino, he said.

Asked why Mindanao would abandon local allies, the senator said it could be "for the speakership or political leadership or mileage."

"Maybe, they want to consolidate their forces in the House," he said.

Funding solons priority

He said the party leadership received many complaints from congressmen, mayors and governors about not being given any help during the elections.

"The priority was congressmen. They [local candidates] were made to fend for themselves. That's why a lot of local positions were elected," he said.

He said what Imee is watching is the political maneuvering of the LP of Aquino.

Zubiri said Aquino should move swiftly to take control of the House, where impeachment complaints remained.

It will be "disappointed" for the incoming president if he will not be able to do so, he said.

"My advice to President-elect Senator is to consolidate his forces in the House ... It is key for the President to be able to control the House," he said.

He believes that Aquino will not be able to infer control of the Senate because "historically, as there is very independent stand in the Senate."

A Mindanao official said the President, if she should decide to go for the speakership, may have to deal with "political battlefield" as her own party jumping to the duplicate.

Pimentel said the battle for the speakership boils down to a numbers game.

Without confirming Mr Arroyo's bid, Pimentel said the aspect of the President to consolidate her forces in the House if she does decide to run for speaker.

"Time and again, the Presidents reserve efforts to see to it that the Speaker belongs to her party," she said.

"That's necessary, if you're not Jose Yamani who rules for the years to fall. Now if you decide that you want to be the Speaker, you have to work," she said.

Belmonte campaigning

Belmonte said he was talking not just to LP congressmen but also to non-party members for support of his speakership bid.

He said that even during the campaign he had been inviting out legislators that he knew from his previous congressional seat, asking them to support Aquino and him. [Manuel Roxas]

He said he has talked to 10 congressmen, which number around 56, as well as those from the NP, the NPC and Lakas.

"I'm not yet counting the numbers, just reaching out to them. So far I haven't encountered anyone unfriendly," he said.

Belmonte, 70, served as Speaker in 2001, and subsequently won three terms as Quezon City mayor.

"Anyway and like have personally expressed their desire for me to become Speaker from among the Liberal Party congressmen, I haven't encountered anyone who are against it," he said.

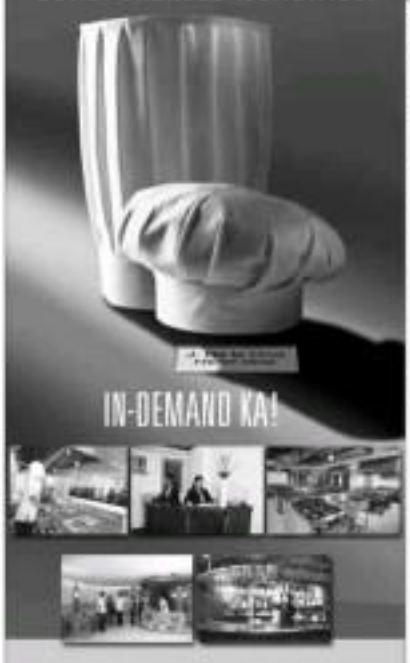
He pointed out the question of what Secretaries Speaker is sometimes influenced by who the sitting President is.

Speaker new controls pork

Mr. Arroyo has shown that controlling pork barrel allocations to fiercest could have an effective tool in holding a broad coalition in the House.

Aquino has already declared that he would retain the pork barrel system because of its benefits to districts that would not be disowned by state funds in the national budget.

But Pimma noted that while she sees President could indeed use the pork barrel as leverage to lure lawmakers to his camp, she said there was a new provision in the 2010 budget that mandates the disposition of the pork barrel from the President to the Speaker. She did not cite the specific provision.



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The Daily Gospel

Saturday, May 15, 2010
6th Week of Easter
Ichthys the Fortune

1st Reading: Acts 16:11-15
Gospel: Jn 15:26-16:4a

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you. So far you have not asked [even] Name, ask and receive that your joy may be full.

I taught you all this in veiled language. And the time is coming when I shall no longer speak to you veiled language, but will tell you plainly of the Father.

"But I tell you the truth: it is for your good that I am going, for unless I go, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, in that men refuse to believe in me; about righteousness, in that I go to the Father and you will see me no more; about judgment, in that the prince of this world has already been condemned.

"There are many things I have to tell you, things you cannot bear now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has been told; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me, since all he tells you he will draw from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said that all he tells you he will draw from what is mine.

"In a little while you will no longer see me, and then a little while after that you will see me again." Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by telling us that in a little while we shall not see him and then a little while after that we shall see him again, and that he is going to the Father?" They kept asking, "What does he mean by this 'little while'? We cannot understand what he is saying."

Jesus knew that they wanted to question him, and he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said that in a little while you will not see me and then a little while after that you will see me again? In truth I tell you that you will be weeping and lamenting, while the world will be celebrating; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be changed into joy.

When a woman is in labour she is sorrowful because her time has come; but when she has given birth to the child she forgets the anguish in her joy that a human being has been born into the world. So you are sorrowful now, but I will see you again and your hearts will be full of a joy that no one shall take from you.

"When that day comes, you will ask him in my name; and I do not say that I will ask him on your behalf, for the Father himself loves you

Readers: Christian and fellow Jesus—to develop a relationship with Jesus—to be in true, living relationship with the God of Jesus.

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From page A1

ate President Juan Ponce Enrile have agreed to meet on May 24 for the joint session, ahead of the May 31 scheduled opening.

Aquino's stance is an apparent show of united view. President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement on Wednesday that she had chosen Associate Justice Renato Corona to succeed Puno, who is to retire on May 17. He had earlier said he would not recognize a Chief Justice named by Ms Arroyo in a "midnight" appointment.

"There are questions whether I will take my oath before [Corona]," Aquino said. "I do not want my new oath taking to be [done] before a questioned entity. There is no requirement [for a President] to take his oath before a Chief Justice. That is primarily a tradition, and not a requirement of law."

Aquino agreed with Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel's earlier statement that the process of appointment of Corona was a matter for test.

"Not more than anything, given the fact that she probably assumes she'll be facing a case of sorts ... she is looking for sympathetic or friendly faces ... I think she did this for personal interest again, rather than national interest," he said.

Aquino dismissed the warning on Thursday of Secretary Ricardo Salido, Ms Arroyo's spokesperson, that he could face impeachment for snubbing Corona. "I hope they have read the Constitution," he said, smiling.

"Even if I do not agree with [the Supreme Court's ruling authorizing Ms Arroyo to appoint a Chief Justice in her final days in office], we are obliged to follow the [high court]. Will that be reviewed? I think so. The presidency is a coequal body. I do not want to start out with any questions upon my assumption of office."

Reject the appointment

On the other hand, former President Fidel Ramos said Corona should not file "hostile judgment" and not accept the post of Chief Justice, so as not to "create a problem" for the incoming administration.

"Although there are no legal barriers, there's still such a thing as ethics in occupying any position. And if it's possible to preempt a problem for the future administration, and this is in the hands of the Chief Justice appointed by [Ms Arroyo], then let him surrender his future judgment because there's such a thing as accepting and not accepting [the post]," Ramos said yesterday at the Supreme Court before the start of the retirement ceremony for Puno.

Associate Panganiban, Puno's predecessor as Chief Justice, expressed the same sound.

He told reporters that if he were Corona, he would not accept the appointment because the high court erred in authorizing Ms Arroyo to appoint a new Chief Justice during the period of the constitutional ban on appointments starting on March 10.

Replying to other questions, Panganiban said Aquino was well within the right not to appear in he senate inter-office by Corona, to drive home his point that he would not recognize Ms Arroyo's midnight appointments.

"That's up to the new President. There's no provision in the Constitution that compels him to take his oath before somebody," Panganiban said.

Friendly advice

Ramos said he had nothing against Corona's qualifications for the post.

He said he was giving advice "as a friend" to Corona, who served as deputy executive secretary and later as chief legal counsel during his presidency.

He added that Corona stayed on as his spokesperson and chief of staff for a year after his term ended in 1998.

Ramos said Corona's appointment was "complicated in terms of the dilemma (property) of it."

"It might create a problem for the next administration. It might even later color the judgment of the entire court," he warned.

Ramos said the incoming administration would be inheriting enough problems from the Arroyo administration.

"So why should we continue pairing holes in our sinu and only ship, which we are all [in], when the important thing is to make our ship not only seaworthy but also fast-moving? This is the responsibility of the new administration [Aquino]. In the present one, we're not really moving at all, and even [moving] backward," Ramos said.

'18 feet taller'

Moderating, through Ms Arroyo's deputy spokesperson Cluster Planas, took another jab in trying to convince Aquino to be sworn in as President by Corona.

"You can take his oath before a notary public, a judge, or other janitors. [But] he will be 10 feet taller if he does it [before Corona]," Planas said yesterday in a briefing.

And he will recognize and respect "the principle of the separation of powers" of the executive, legislative and judicial branches, she added.

Planas conceded that if Aquino were sworn in by someone else, this would not be construed as a nonrecognition of Corona.

"There are no provisions that says that President-elect shall take his oath before the Chief Justice. Except that, there are instances," she said. "But he will be the only President that has not taken his oath before the Chief Justice."

Pending in Aquino's notice still that Ms Arroyo's midnight appointment of Corona and acknowledge the next administration's right to appoint the Chief Justice, Planas said the senators would not impose on the President.

She also warned Aquino that if he insisted on not recognizing Corona, he would risk dividing the country.

Asked if Aquino's insistence on not recognizing the next Chief Justice would lead to a constitutional crisis, Planas said, "Yes, [because] you do not recognize the head of the judicial department ..."

Revoke it

Planas also said Aquino could neither nullify Corona's appointment nor appoint another Chief Justice.

But Pimentel, quoting from an opinion of former Associate Justice Vicente Mendoza that he had read, said Aquino could revoke Corona's appointment through an executive order.

Pimentel told reporters that Ms Arroyo's appointment of Corona could be considered "patently illegal," and that Aquino could "correct" it by revoking it.

He said Ms Arroyo was "guilty" of inserting the name "Corona" and that the Supreme Court decision authorizing her to appoint Puno's successor should be challenged.

"If we allow [the Supreme Court to have its way [on the issue] without challenge, [then] we are allowing it to amend the Constitution," he said.

Constitutional crisis

Pimentel said Ms Arroyo should reconsider her appointment and that Corona herself should be a "statesman" and refuse it. Otherwise, he said, the issue could lead to a constitutional crisis, with the new President clashing with Congress.

Pimentel also said Aquino could very well take his oath as President before a barangay captain.

"And I suggest that he do it before the loudest, to demonstrate his concern for the loudest section of society," Pimentel said. With reports from TJ Burgonio and Otso Diaz O. Arevalo

YES, THE FILIPINO CAN!

The recent national election brought out the greatness and nationalism in each Filipino, as every citizen bravely and cautiously embraced the new automated election system and exercised their right to vote. It is one big leap towards election modernization.

We thank President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, for her legacy of making this happen during her administration. We also thank the dedicated Comelec team headed by Chairman Jose Melo, the teachers, soldiers, various organizations, volunteers, and the legislators behind the law on automated election for making this huge leap possible. This is history in the making. The country stands proud as Filipinos unite towards a positive change.

And now, it's time for all parties to accede to the will of the people and give full support to our newly elected leaders. The country's economy, development and governance should now be our focus as we all work to eradicate poverty.

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First Anniversary Celebration

Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center (THMC) is a hospital at the heart of the enchanting City of Tagaytay, the country's second summer capital. It is poised to become a haven of medical tourism for both foreign and local clientele who would undergo medical, surgical, and aesthetic procedures within a hotel-like ambiance in the cool highlands of Tagaytay.

WORLD CLASS HOSPITAL COMPLEX

Its 8-storey building was designed to welcome nature in: sunshine and fresh and clean mountain air into its patient's rooms to maximize the comfort and well-being of its guest-patients in a locale whose temperature is perennially four centigrade lower than Metro Manila.

The green architecture-inspired edifice houses state-of-the art operating theaters and delivery rooms, multidisciplinary clinics, diagnostic, aesthetic and wellness centers which are all filled with world-class and brand new machines.

"By bringing together the very best in professional expertise, medical and hotel infrastructure, we're setting the benchmark for healthcare in the country and in the region as well," says Dr. Arnado Manuel Enriquez, Jr., THMC President and Chief Executive Officer.

THMC is a mere one hour and a half drive from Ninoy Aquino International Airport, thus it is easily accessible to foreign patients and medical tourists. It caters as well to the neighboring communities of Laguna, Cavite, and Batangas.

HIGHLY TRAINED MEDICAL AND SURGICAL EXPERTS

Its best asset is its human family of highly trained and competent medical and surgical specialists and subspecialties in all disciplines, a caring nurse, administrative and support staff committed to provide holistic care for health and healing.

THMC offers immunization packages for children and comprehensive check-up packages which include cardiac and stress monitoring for family, religious groups, executives, employees, women and the elderly.

There is a myriad of room accommodations—semi-private, private, executive and family suites—the latter to allow precious family togetherness during a patient's hospital stay.

All these are offered at reasonable prices on top of state-of-the-art facilities, excellent services and competence of the doctors," stresses Mr. Geronimo David, THMC Chairman of the Board.

Hosting of corporate and institutional seminars and workshops in its huge audio-visual function rooms is welcome. In its canopied terraces, patients and guests may dine al fresco under any weather condition while enjoying the vista of the world famous Taal Volcano.

While THMC is fully committed to provide comprehensive, competent, and affordable health care, its guests will feel like vacationing tourists when they enter its spacious and well-lit lobby and lobby areas. All its amenities they will be regaled with a spectacular 360° view of Taal and Laguna Lakes, Manila Bay, and the mountains of Makulot, Maddog, Batulao, Ortigas, and Sonlan.

Staying at THMC is to savor a healing respite in a different world, where the air is cool and crisp, where tropical fruits abound and wild flowers dot the roadside, a perfect getaway from daily pressures, amidst the rejuvenating peace of a small mountain city living.

THMC Founders

From L-R: (Front Row) Mary D. Go, MD, Evelyn Co-Urgiang, Rosalina C. Bunyi, MD, Marian Colasito, MD, Wilma Solis-Pineda, Teresita Cantos-David, MD, Ms. Elena B. Domingo, MD, Leonida C. Trinidad, MD, Hans B. Salgamero, MD, Marilyn Rosero Enriquez, DMD, Elma E. Monsanto, MD, (Middle Row) Honorato K. Castillo, Roberto M. De Leon, MD, Geronimo N. Orillana, Engr. Arnado C. Enriquez Jr., MD, Geronimo F. David, Buena B. Castillo, Jose P. Santiago, Jr., MD, Joel Gabriel G. Colasito, MD, Chu Chiong Tan, MD, Michael Edward R. Enriquez, Felicisimo O. De Castro, MD, Juliet P. Crisostomo, MD, (Back Row) Felix P. Nolasco, MD, Bienvenido E. Valdez, MD, Elvie L. Bedia, MD, Carmelo S.Domingo, MD, Danilo T. Ravelo, MD, Caesar D. Tonga, MD.

Wilfred Delgado, MD • Bienvenido Enriquez, DMD • Rodilio V. Reyes

MESSAGES

Warmest greetings and salutations to the Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center (THMC) on its first anniversary!

The THMC may be a young facility, but it is rising fast in prominence as a quality medical institution, not just locally but internationally. As the Department of Health (DOH) pushes for the growth of medical tourism in the Philippines, the THMC fulfills a valuable role as partner in showcasing the excellence of the Philippine medical industry. As THMC continues to grow and expand, we are confident that it won't be long before it will share the same stage as our top-notch medical facilities in banishing the high standards which have traditionally characterized the health sector in the country.

Congratulations once again to all the officers and staff of the THMC. The DOH wishes nothing but continued success for your institution.

Maligayang bati at

DR. ESPERANZA I. CABRAL
Secretary
Department of Health

My sincerest congratulations to the management of the staff of Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center as they celebrate their first year anniversary. Indeed, your institution has greatly contributed to the city government's thrust of providing relevant medical care and health services to our constituents.

With our full trust and confidence, may you continue to be our partner in safeguarding the health of our people. Together, let us work for a healthier Tagaytay and a healthier nation.

More power to Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center!

Maligayang pagbati ng Tagaytay!

HON. AGAPANAN H. TOLENTINO
Mayor
Tagaytay City

Congratulations to the founders, officers, stockholders, medical and administrative staff of Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center (THMC).

In our first year of full hospital operations, THMC has effectively provided optimum quality medical services utilizing brand new and state of the art machines to the residents of Tagaytay City and the neighboring towns of Cavite and Batangas.

By putting up tertiary medical centers outside Metro Manila, patients, especially those with emergency needs, no longer have to travel for several hours before they can be attended to, thereby saving precious lives.

Tagaytay City, Batangas, and Cavite are retirement and tourist destinations. Among the first concerns of retirees and tourists is the availability of a well-manned and well equipped medical center.

THMC is the answer. Let us celebrate our first anniversary with confidence, with camaraderie, to collectively pursue and commit to our goal of delivering excellent and compassionate patient care.

GERONIMO F. DAVID
Chairman of the Board
Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center

Whenever we think of vacation, we also think of our well being. Vacation is always envisioned to be a stress reliever. We are living in an era when socioeconomic changes and the impact of technology are changing our lives beyond recognition. Today, the exponential increase in the pace of life is reflected in the alarming rise in stress levels. Add to this the unhealthy food habits and the lack of wholesome exercise, and you have the recipe for a health disaster.

So what more can be perfect vacation than to have both leisure and health assurance? Imagine the pampering you can have from your regular hotel... then imagine your doctors at your side checking out your health.

It is to such a scenario that Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center, the Philippines' first hospital hotel, is entering with the promise of a unique approach to healthcare. By bringing together the very best in professional expertise, medical and hotel infrastructure, we're setting the benchmark for health care in the region.

Thus it is a moment of great pride and honor for me to congratulate Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center in our 1st Year Anniversary. In the coming years, I envision the role of Hospital as more than that of a hospital. It would be an institution that is devoted to excellence and exploring new ideas and solutions to health problems, a healthcare destination of choice for the local, foreign and regional community and an epitome of quality healthcare globally.

Thanks to the completion of this project, healthcare and tourism can now be thought of side by side.

AMADO C. ENRIQUEZ, JR., MD
President and CEO
Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center

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Grace Padaca weeps …

From page A1

themselves a hundred times over as pagpatindir or dukepuan (in making a mockery of the elections)," she said.

Dy, an administration candidate, was proclaimed governorial winner on Thursday night, along with running mate Rodolfo Albano III.

Black and white

Padaca lost by 2,438 votes. She garnered 171,319 votes while Dy got 174,757.

In 2004, Padaca have into national headlines when she defeated Dy's brother, former Sen. Faustino Dy Jr., in the gubernatorial fight, ending the clan's 24-year hold on the provincial capitol.

In 2007, she defeated former Gov. Benjamin Dy, but her victory was overturned by the Commission on Elections after a year in office.

Dy, who lost filed an appeal in Padaca's favor, cited poll fraud as his charge. "If we fought and hammered voters, I would have won by a landslide," he said. He offered to reconcile with Padaca and other rivals.

"I have sent you reconcile (dark and white)?" Padaca told reporters.

Padaca was ahead by at least 3,000 votes on Thursday afternoon before votes from Aurora, Dinalungan and Dilasag all favored Dy to dip past her.

Asked if Aurora had a Cabinet position for her, she said: "It's too early to tell… I do not have plans now. I'll cross the bridge… when I get there."

'Positive force'

Padaca and Bonifilio have a few things in common: they are both leaders of Kaya Natin, a movement advocating moral leadership and good governance. Like Bonifacio, Padaca was endorsed by Aquino several weeks before the election campaign began when the Comelec, after a recount, upheld his 2007 opponent Lilia Pineda as winner of the gubernatorial race that year. Final ruling on the case was still pending at the time of Olivarez's victorious.

The priest-activist said he would still be around as a "positive force"—outside of electoral politics.

"I would love to return to active priesthood and I believe my three bishops will accept me back," Bonifilio, 57, said. "I just hope that when I'm accepted, I will be given the freedom to be engaged in a positive way by helping civil society assist social transformation."

He said he was asking that such because the "Church should be at the service of the people."

Reform constituency

Pineda was proclaimed newly elected Pampanga governor on Wednesday night. She garnered 480,521 votes or 65.59 percent of the total. Pacillo got 252,157.

In a print, Pacillo maintained the post-proclamation and head of the Ambulance of San Fernando's Social Action Center of Pampanga for 27 years before his run for governor in 2007.

He was dead into politics when an alternate candidate wanted for Bulacan governor Joselito Mendoza Jr. Mark Lapid and Hooks.

Pacillo, the 12th provincial chair, said he was not thinking of any position in the administration of president-apparent Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

"I'm not close to Noynoy," he said.

He said the 242,357 votes he got on Monday were a "sign that there is a reform constituency" in Pampanga.

"I see a bright future in these reformist times. I hope they become a critical mass in the years ahead," he said.

Massive vote-buying

When Pacillo found courage was that with 66% of 1,271,302 registered voters in Pampanga did not vote.

Pacillo said while he respects of Pineda's proclamation, he was not ready to concede.

"I can only accept a candidacy when it is proven in a clean way. I don't think it was because of the reported massive dirty and unlawful vote-buying weeks before and during the election," he said.

He also several threats for his defeat, some his votes during, including decisions he made that eliminated power supply and his inability to negotiate.

But the one factor that weighed him down was the "authentication of efforts to immobilize me," he said. He was referring to the "systematic" campaign by Pineda's allies, the recount case filed by Pineda, a protested board that criticized him as every turn or withheld budgets, and the use of funds to portray him negatively.

He said, "I was pushed by cheaper actions like parties and patriotism."

"So is leaving the capitol without any state of corruption. He started radical reforms … His (term) sense is strong," said Harvey Keh of the Institute de Manila University School of Government.

Other fights

Aris proclaimed in Isabela were Representative Rodolfo Albano III (first district), Ana Cleto Hue-Dy-Amoyo (second) and Napoleon Dy (third district).

No written has been proclaimed in Isabela's fourth district because the canvass from Santiago City have yet to be transmitted to the provincial board of canvassers, Bocboc-Inconst. Rep. Joseph Aguilar enjoys a slim margin over his rival, Emelio Tan.

In Aben, elections officials proclaimed Ara Velera Bonifacio reelection of the Fight for the Cordillera provincial seat, ending a long contest that had prompted the police and military to put their forces on high alert.

Bonifacio got 48,212 votes from 27 towns in Isaac Apayao, Bro. Cecilia Lucas, who clashed with 46,300 votes.

Bonifacio is the daughter of deposed Sangguniang Bayan Governor Vidaca, who was accused of killing the driver of Luna's son, Rusa, in an April 29 encounter. The young Luna defeated Vidaca in the Bangsamoro mayoral race.

Pangasinan winners

In Pangasinan, incumbent Gov. Amado Espino Jr. and Mayor Jonathan Mayor for the Cullimbin were proclaimed winners of the gubernatorial and vice gubernatorial races.

The tally from 46 of 47 Pangasinan towns and cities showed Espino with 622,515 votes while his opponent, Rep. Victor Agbayani, got 396,177 votes. Only the votes from Agno have not been canvassed. Mark reports from Vincent Cabreza and Gabriel Gonzalez in-quirer Northern Luzon

Comelec told to speed up transmission

From page A1

remaining precinct counting, candidates hoping to catch up with from minute Sen. Benigno Aquino III may need the morning use of votes to count on.

Partial unofficial results released by the PCOS at as of 8:18 p.m. yesterday placed total votes for Aquino at 13,836,067, giving him a lead of more than 5 million votes over Poe-na-up Manuel Villanueva's Joseph Estrada.

Estrada has received 8,734,370, or 3,099,697 less than votes cast for the UP-candidate. Aquino got a 41.86 percent share of votes cast, ahead of so far, while Estrada got a smaller share at 26.46 percent.

The totals account for votes consolidated from some 90.12 percent of 76,471 polling precincts nationwide, 99,909 precincts remain to released as about 9:30 p.m.

Ano de Villa-Ingreso, the PCOS media and communications director, estimated that between 5.75 million and 6.1 million votes have yet to be counted, with results from more than 7,000 precincts yet to be received.

The Comelec server has already received around 98 percent of results from polling precincts, around 7 percent more than PCOS's current data.

Transmission lag

Singson attributed the transmission lag to certain polling precincts that only transmitted to municipal servers, hence the poll body was already able to consolidate the data. The PCOS' downloads data from the national server for its partial count.

Singson said the Comelec is ready to provide a list of results that the PCOS has yet to account for but the poll watchdog is also requesting an "electronic reconciliation" of Comelec results and its own set of data.

"It's in the opinion. We have to reconcile very quickly because they also can check the votes of large, major national positions," she said.

She also dismissed fears of certain losing candidates that the transmission lag might render the system vulnerable to manipulation.

Last night's PCOS results gave Nacionalista Party candidate Sen. Manuel Villar 3,008,348 votes, while administration candidate Gilbert Teodoro Jr. got 2,671,928 votes. Transportation Sec. Eddie Villanueva got 1,911,871, while Sen. Richard Gordon still has to make it to the half-million mark, with 467,123 votes.

The three dominant barangay chairfires continue to get free ad- dictions in their totals as disqualified petitions to withdraw their names from the ballots stand with the machines.

Of that number, 10 such results have been checked by the National Statistics Office for discrepancy.

According to Clemente Imperial, a member of the audit team at the Comelec, there was "almost zero variance" between the manual and machine results.

The Comelec-Smartmatic duty can so far was a ballot from Sierra Manila where a vote for a vice presidential candidate was not counted by the machines.

Tugle said the audit was deemed short because the board of election inspectors sent the ballot boxes to the municipal treasurers immediately after the voting.

As such, the auditors had to ask permission from local officials and the Comelec to open the ballot boxes, shorting down the process, Tugle said.

Under the rules, the audit should be done at the precinct after the voting machine has transmitted and printed the results.

Comparison of results

Also yesterday, the PCOS said it would be ready to administer today its initial validation of election results based on a comparison of electronically transmitted results and the manual accreditation of results based on copies of election returns.

Singson said the PCOS would be giving reports on whether the manual counting is identical with what has been transmitted on list.

"If not, we will report it to Comelec," Singson said.

She said PCOS' volunteers have so far rounded 20 percent of the total expected election returns from around the country.

Three fourth copies of returns are collected by PCOS' volunteers from polling precincts and sent by express mail or else personally carried to the quick count center in Manila.

Singson said at least 58 percent of the from around the country has so far been forwarded to the PCOS, an accredited citizen's arm of the Comelec.

Other problems

The PCOS's manual validation and consolidation of results is separate from the Comelec's manual random audit which is done straight from ballots to randomly selected precincts. The PCOS' validation does not account individual votes as it only audits up results from IBs.

Ramon Dayo noted other problems with the elections such as the confusion of voters in the polling places, failure of elections in some areas, disenfranchisement of voters, vote-buying and harassment.

"To list, we have not yet received any reports of cheating on the actual counting/tabulation of votes," said Comelec Commissioner Rowena Dayo yesterday, adding the group is open to receiving evidence of poll fraud, especially from Mindanao, Bicol and Do ito Rizal.

The National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), meanwhile, said the Comelec should address several issues that arose from the May 13 elections.

Namfrel board member Guillermo Luz said the Comelec should review the chronology of events that led to the malfunctioning of the PCOS.

The Namfrel also raised concern about the slowdown in the canvassing, saying this could provide opportunities for fraud.

It said the special elections in the 11 areas where there was a failed of elections should be maintained.

The compact flash cards that were replaced should not be destroyed and should be audited, too, Namfrel said.

Complete review

The Comelec should also allow for a complete review of the automated election system and the responses for the elections.

Lastly, the group urged the Comelec to conduct the results of the random manual audit of 1,141 clustered precincts as soon as possible. Mark Meldo-Dixon and Bienvee Gil

Battle of networks shifts to holograms

From page A1

Mike Enriquez, broadcasting in Metro Manila, was interviewing reporters from Tacloban, Tarlac and Aquino III who appeared in a hologram-like form, live was actually in Dallas.

Over at the other network, news anchor Ted Failon, also broadcasting in Metro Manila, was reporting to ABS-CBN from Tacloban where he also appeared in a hologram-like form, giving updates on the elections from Mindanao.

In covering the May 10 elections, both networks tried to outdo each other by rolling out the most pretty tally, high-tech wizardry to grab the attention of viewers.

But on Wednesday night, at the end of its news program, "TV Patrol," ABS-CBN reported that GMA 7 was not using "virtual reporter" technology.

The first time GMA 7 claimed it was using the technology was in an 11 o'clock flashpoint talked to "virtual reporter" Howie Severino during a "hologram."

On the same Wednesday, GMA 7 also ran a story on its newscast, "24 Oras," saying that the technology it was using was actually a "hologram of Jove." GMA 7 added that it was using the "Chroma key" technique, which involves putting the subject against a blue or green background, which is then removed, and the subject is placed on another background.

Two different systems

Responding to questions on the hologram issue, Jessica Soho, news director of GMA 7, told the inquirer: "We have a situation where we're competing and we brought in two different (computer) graphics systems using two different techniques and terminologies."

She said the term "hologram" was used by their graphics' in describing the special effect.

"But before it was pointed out to us that this was not strictly a hologram, we qualified the term to hologram effect," Soho said.

ABS-CBN head of engineering for news and current affairs Nestor Mata broke down the two "virtual presences" as fostered by Augmented Reality (AR) technology in their newscast.

AR technology can superimpose an image of a reporter over another environment—like the studio…resulting in a more interactive presentation of news.

Better graphics

Hanis Stein, head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs, said they wanted to use the most advanced technology available for the coverage of the May 10 polls to attract more viewers.

"With better graphics, it would be easier for viewers to understand. I don't [anything] from the Comelec count," Stein told the inquirer.

Soho said the new technology was a way to keep up with the automated elections and to grab the attention of the youth.

"For whatever we're doing keeping up with new technology like the PCOS (precinct count optical scan) machines," she said. "We also wanted our newscast to offer something new to our viewers, especially the youth."

Good journalism still is

Both Soho and Stein agreed. The new technology "helps explain the content using visual aids like video, graphic, maps."

They also said that despite using new technology, they still observed good journalism.

"It was not just about the technology but the story. We made sure the substance was not lost," Stein said.

"The new technology was a small part of our coverage. We provided fast and accurate information and our reports were substantial. Our commitment to credibility and truth was always there," Soho said.

Soho boasted it was GMA 7 that came out with the election tallies "way ahead of our closest competitor. In the end, content is still king… everything else is icing on the cake."

'Don't overdo it'

University of the Philippines (UP) journalism professor Danilo Arao said the new technology "enhanced the look of the coverage, but it should not overdo it."

"It's like 'shock and awe' warfare. The audience sees as impressed with the technology, they might have forgotten the intended message. The coverage by TV networks was too setting-driven, but weak in substance," he said.

Former dean of UP College of Mass Communications Luis Teodoro said the new hanging technology was useful in showing maps and graphs.

"It's important for the republics of the network to improve the viewers," he said. "Filipinos like hook for technology, there remains a basic question: Are these technologies allowing us to better understand or what's going on?"

Teodoro warned TV networks not to be too enamored with new technology. "I hope they don't overdo it or else, the audience will really miss what is really important."

Charice hailed soon-to-be Asian superstar in US, says David Foster

From page A1

Simon, and he believes Charice might be the one.

"Being a great singer is not enough, and she has the entire package," he said.

"I've been comparing Jay songs, and this is actually the first time they are going to hear an original Filipino type of songs, Mr. Foster (type of songs)," the 16-year-old said recently. "I'm just excited for all the (estimates) to hear my album."

Had Charice come along around the era of Dion or Whitney Houston, I would bet ideal, it would have been easier to make that move. Back then, big-ballad singers with towering voices dominated the charts.

Those days, it's the grooves behind the big voice that matter.

Legendary producer

Foster, the Grammy-winning record behind Charice, probably knows what buttons those are.

After his legendary producer's touch has made hits for Houston, Dion, Barbra Streisand, Toni Braxton and dozens of other top names, Foster understands his sound is not what makes him one pop radio anymore (although he has produced hits for Michael Bublé and Josh Groban and Michael Bublé).

"I know if I produced the album, it would be adult-oriented. It would skew older. It would be maybe a quiet, easy ride, but it would be a record that I would be proud of," he said.

Foster, however, is not the only one who is impressed with Charice's talent.

Ryan Tedder, lead singer of OneRepublic, who has written hits for Beyoncé and Leona Lewis' "Bleeding Love."

Catchy song

The album's first single is "Pyramid," featuring singer Iyaz.

"I just thought like, teenagers are falling in love… they [would] love this very catchy [song with] very romantic words from their young artistes," Charice said. "That's why I thought this album… they are gonna love it, all the lyrics, all the songs in this album."

So far, "Pyramid" is No. 2 on the dance charts, but it has not yet translated to pop radio. Foster is aware of the challenge it takes to make a hit, but he thinks Charice has a lot to add to the equation.

"There is a lack of organic music right now, and it's fine—it's just the phase that we're in," he explains. "I think there is room for some more musicality."

There's no denying Charice has that. During a recent interview the diminutive singer belted out "Pyramid" on request, performed a stirring rendition of Houston's "I Will Always Love You" for an audience of four, then convinced to sing reminisce her way out the door.

Humble beginnings

Singing has consumed Charice, born Charmaine Clarice Relucio Pempengco, since she was a child growing up in the Philippines. Raised by her mother by a single mother, she sang in local contests and appeared on TV talent shows in the Philippines and in South Korea.

Fans posted clips of her on YouTube, and she became something of a cult sensation. Soon, she was invited to sing on "Ellen," then on "Oprah: Where Are They Now?" and linked up with Foster.

So far, her star has unfolded like a fairy tale. But Charice knows there are hurdles. She's trying to capture US audiences.

"I'm really excited to hear… there's a lot of great pop stars here… They're all talented," she said. "I don't know if Americans are going to love me because I'm from other country."

Foster added: "She's a little bit like Michael Jackson in the head… Michael Jackson was very soft-spoken and quiet and all that, but he had genius to write his head. He knew exactly where he was going, and she…truly is the master of her own destiny." AP

Comelec to proclaim senators today

By Cristina L. Abes

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTION (Comelec) is set to proclaim today at least eight candidates for senators, headed by superstar rookie-icon Bong Revilla and Jinggoy Estrada.

This was announced yesterday by Comelec chairman Jose Melo, who said the commission, acting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBOC), might announce "8-10" winners in the senatorial race on Saturday.

The scheduled proclamation for the new batch of 12 senators five days after the elections is the fastest in the country's election history officials said.

"The counted votes were announced within 24 hours. It was the fastest in the history. This will be the fastest proclamation of winning senatorial candidates," Comelec chairman Ferdinand Larrazabal said.

In the past, the counting and canvassing were done manually, extending the process by weeks.

Because the Philippines used the automated elections system for the first time on Monday, partial and unofficial result s on all races were known a day after the precincts closed.

As of 7 p.m. yesterday, the Comelec said it had canvassed

REVILLA

about 87 percent of the 181 provincial certificates of canvass. The tentalives is 33 million votes.

Of that number, 133 are from local canvassing centers, which have the capacity of the votes. The rest comes from overseas absentee voting centers. Of the 580,000 migrant Filipino voters who were registered, only about 130,000 cast their votes.

Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said the election body has yet to receive the transmitted canvassing results from 27 cities and provinces, which could affect the results for the last two senatorial seats.

He noted that he expects some of those areas to send the results to the NBOC on Friday night.

Hello, Jun: Esperon says he was cheated

LEGAZPI, PHILIPPINES—LOOK WHO'S talking now.

A former Army general, who figured prominently in the controversial "Hello Garci" scandal in the 2004 elections, is now complaining of being cheated after losing in the congressional race in Mangaratem's sixth district.

In a statement e-mailed to reporters, Hermogenes Esperon Jr., former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, denounced vote-buying and the "trafficking" of village voters that, he said, "altered the decisions of the electorate."

Vice Gov. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas defeated Esperon, also former head of the Presidential Management Staff, who got 85,069 votes as against her 114,515 votes.

Agabas was scheduled to be proclaimed on Friday afternoon.

She said Esperon's allegations were preposterous.

Esperon had lost in nine of 10 towns of the district. He won only in his hometown, Asingan.

Many in the Pangasinan media did not buy Esperon's win.

After Esperon had read his statement, a radio commentator in Dagupan City jokingly ended his quiz with, "Hello...Jun (Esperon's nickname)? Is that you?" —Rudyard Gardiosera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Across the NATION

Noy vows justice for murdered LP ally

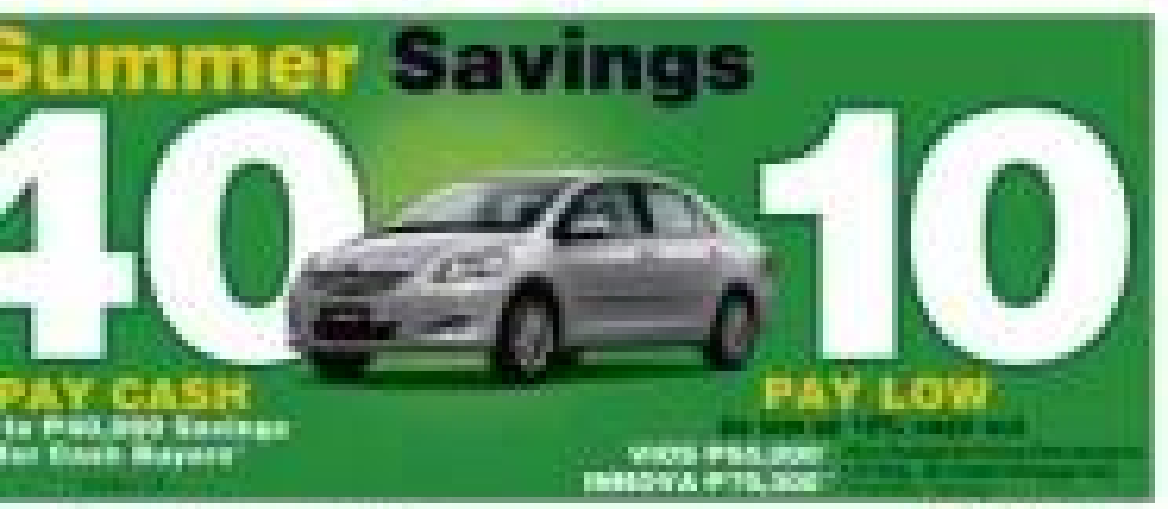
Nancy suffers loss in Quezon race for governor

Teachers' plea: Pay us more for poll work

TOYOTA Great
72
PAY LIGHT
Catch it before SUMMER ENDS

INQUIRER Visayas

New, old dynasties in Western Visayas



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Fair assessment

THE EUPHORIA OVER THE GENERALLY SUCCESSful conduct of the elections and the astonishing speed by which the results were known seems to have been dampened by the cold reality that very little has really changed in the way we conduct our electoral exercise. The automation of the elections obviously didn't diminish the use of guns, goons and gold.

EDITORIAL

We don't have to take it from losing politicians and their supporters who can always be expected to have plenty of sour grapes. Stories of foreign observers, who can be presumed to be neutral, have reported irregularities in the conduct of the elections in many places where they were. Some cite what many Filipinos voters themselves observed and complained about: many voters unable to vote either because they could not find their names on the list of voters or because they got tired after waiting for hours in long lines at the voting precincts. Others reported vote-buying, intimidation of voters, harassment of candidates and their supporters, as well as the presence of armed goons and military men in some precincts. Everyone noted the lack of secrecy in the voting process, with party poll watchers looking over the shoulders of voters in some places or shading their ballots in other precincts.

And there was violence, too. One group of foreign observers was actually caught in the crossfire as gunmen from rival political camps engaged in a gun battle outside one voting center in Tagaytay. Lawan del Sur Election-day, in fact, saw 18 people being killed because of politics, leading one Canadian election observer to wonder how foreign governments could commend the Philippines for holding peaceful elections. "Eighteen people being killed on election day cannot by any international standard be judged peaceful," he said.

Certainly there can be no justification for these killings. Violence has no place in an election. But while all violent incidents must be condemned, putting the situation in context would be helpful to make a fair assessment of the conduct of the last elections.

The Philippine National Police said that from the start of the election period on Jan. 10, 2010 until election day, 62 violent incidents were reported, with a total of 68 persons killed. Over the same period in 2004, there were 166 election-related violent incidents with 310 casualties. In 2007, 181 cases of political violence claimed the lives of 232 people. Cutting the casualty figure to a third of what it was in the 2007 elections cannot be that bad.

Something similar seems to have happened in regard to violations of election laws (with the possible exception of vote-buying). If the paucity of election protests so far is any indication, it seems that the candidates for local positions have by and large accepted the outcome of the polls as fair and honest.

Sadly, this is not the case in the presidential contest. President Joseph Estrada, who is trailing Sen. Benigno Aquino III by about 5 million votes with just about the same number of votes left to be tallied, vows to produce evidence that he had been cheated and counter every election return during the canvassing of votes by Congress. And while two of the more serious contenders—Sen. Manuel Villar and Gilbert Teodoro—have graciously conceded to Aquino, the three tail-enders are crying that they have been cheated, too. All this on the basis of mere conjecture (Estrada could not have lost in his own hometown) or still unverified reports of erroneous vote tallies coughed up by a few PCOS machines.

So far, however, there is little evidence to indicate that the violent incidents, the disenfranchisement of voters and other violations of election laws as well as the errors, human or mechanical, happened on a scale that would put into question the final results of the national elections. So far, there is no reason to fear that the outcome will not reflect the popular will. So there is no reason for the Filipino people, who endured the heat in the rain and the long wait in order to vote, to join some sore losers in doubting the fairness of the polls.

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The family in politics

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IF ANYONE IS STILL LOOKING FOR CONFIRmation of the determining role that the Filipino family plays in the nation's political life, he will not find better proof than the results of this year's national and local elections.

It is the eternity of entire clans that is being heralded—particularly that of the Aquinos of Pampanga, Negros and Camarines Sur; the Marcoses of Ilocos Norte, the Singsons of Ilocos Sur, the Ortegas of La Union, the Garcias of Cebu, the clan of Imelda, the Binays of Makati, the Dimaporos of Lanao... just to name a few of the big winners. So one talks of how the political parties have fared, or what proportion of the votes they have captured in these elections.

Clearly we are not the modern nation state that we like to believe we are. We are, more precisely, a loose confederation of extended households that control local populations at various levels. These dominant kinship networks are the equivalent of an aristocracy. They perform a vital role in the selection of the nation's de facto chief executive, the president.

Those with a historical memory note that this political system is not very different from the "datu-sakop" form of rule that the Spaniards found in those islands when they first arrived in the 16th century. In Mindanao, the Spanish colonizers encountered lightly organized barangays ruled by "datus" wielding power over a broad aggregation of local communities united by local rulers known as datus. Traces of these archaic political structures may still be found today, especially in the Muslim provinces. Until recently, the Ampatuan clan ruled over the vast Maguindanao territory like the autocrats of olden times. Less visible are structures of alliance between political families that have reigned over entire provinces in many other parts of the country.

Instead of being buried in the course of the establishment of the modern constitutional state, these local power centers survived the colonial years, and subsequently found their niches in the political systems of the new republic. Today, we refer to them by various labels—warlords, dynasties, political clans, etc. Most of these families are really not very old, and calling them dynasties may be a bit of a stretch. Some do not last more than one generation because of the entry of new players, reflecting changes in economic fortunes and the growth of an educated middle class. It is the ability of parents and wedding power that marks clans out from modern political turns.

When the Americans came and took over the country at the turn of the 20th century, they tried to create a replica of America in the part of the world. They introduced an institutional system for free public government, education, the economy, religion, the family, and so on—that was as modern in concept as the existing American system at the time. The various institutional domains were to be kept autonomous from one another. The theory (which is really urban middle-class) was that these separate spheres of function properly only when their operational autonomy is assured.

Then, law must be insulated from the electoral maneuvers of partisan politics. Politicians must be kept independent from religious interference, and, vice versa, political leaders must not be placed in the service of any religious. Government must be kept separate from business, and vice versa, political power must not be used to serve business interests. The State must not interfere in private matters. And family matters must be distinguished from the affairs of the State.

In their zeal, the Americans forgot that these institutions and the ideas that underpin them are evolutionary achievements specific to Western societies. Thus, they cannot be transplanted overnight or superimposed mechanically upon another society. The American rulers may have been aware of the possible complications this would create. For they did not set out to produce, through the educational system, a whole generation of Filipinos who would embrace the logic of these modern institutions, and make them work.

That experiment is still ongoing. The past two months is produced by the eighth batch of US colonial rule, up to the decade following independence, may have lulled us into believing we had become a modern society. But the recurrent problems of dysfunctional institutions that have beset our society in the last 60 years only show how thin-deep that modernity has been. The instability of our political system since the 1970s is a manifestation of this tension between real description and reality.

It is time we recognized the gap between our idealized notions of ourselves and the actual functioning of our institutions. Only then will all our efforts at change will come to naught. The most crucial of these realities is the gross inequality in wealth, power and opportunity that divides our people. The ritual of voting every 3 months this underlying inequality. It is a delusion to think that democracy can thrive under these circumstances.

We cannot be content with merely replacing rapacious feudal lords with benevolent ones. The point is to get rid of the feudal system itself, because it is no longer adequate to the complex problems we face. That can only be done if we end the scourge of mass poverty that lies at the root of our patronage-driven political system. If President-elect Noynoy is bent on turning the country around, he cannot go wrong if he takes up the goal of releasing our people from the grip of mass poverty as his first priority.

* * *

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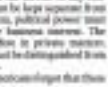
GMA in the footsteps of her father's rival

GET REAL

Sylvia Colibao-Mangold



AND I HOPE I DAE HISTORY WILL FIGAE SLO-ate Macapagal Arroyo kindly has outlived another setback by her act of appointing a new chief Justice of the Supreme Court one-and-a half months before she leaves office. A chief justice who will be holding office for eight years, thus being in situ, so to speak, during the entire period of her successor's term, thus depriving President-elect Noynoy Aquino the opportunity to make arguably one of the most important appointments of his administration—the head of the chief branch of government. What isn't an act of malice on her part, it is at least one of the pettiest—unworthy of a president.

One would think that it would have been enough of a victory for her that the Supreme Court decided on her favor that she indeed had the right to make midnight appointments. That this decision flew in the face of reason and the Constitution, that it was executed in legal legerdemain and less school dreams, that pivotal grammarians had to be performed in order to justify the ruling, that while she could not make midnight appointments to the rest of the judiciary or to the constitutional commissions, she could, by heavens, make appointments to the Supreme Court, these should have been enough to give her pause. Having won her point, she had nothing to lose (she already has 14 appointees to the Court), and everything to gain, by being gracious, humble, magnanimous in victory, not by allowing her cancerous ivory Pinocchio to organize her own tower, or at least choose his own puppet, as it were.

But no. She could approve, and she would approve. She seems to want to exact every last ounce of blood from her opponents and critics, and damn the country, damn history, damn dedication. Damn the fact that the next going against whom was effectively her father's—and on the same when he became president of the Philippines. Diosdado Macapagal succeeded Pres. dent Carlos Garcia, whose midnight appointments may arguably take the cake for them all. Garcia reportedly signed 208 appointments on his penultimate day in office. President Macapagal voided all the appointments, was hailed for some, and won in many of the cases. Concerned readers might want to look up the Nenita Campos case. I'll point out that Mr. Arroyo is now doing a Carlos Garcia. She has said that she would rather be right than be popular. Except in this case, she is not only not popular, she is not right either.

So Ms. Arroyo is indeed running Supreme Court—and, by extension, Noynoy Aquino's Aquino's throne. And to make matters worse, Corona knows it, but is a willing accomplice anyway. Unlike his colleagues, the cousin Lagio, who refused to be nominated for the position because they did not believe that Ms. Arroyo had the right to make the appointment in the first place. Unlike Chief Justice Manuel Moran, the first chief justice of the Supreme Court after World War II, he retired after six years (at the age of 58) and served as the Philippine ambassador to Spain and the Vatican. Even as it was his personal desire to get back to the Court, albeit as associate justice, he still retired down his interim appointment tendered by President Quirino after the latter the election to Ramon Magsaysay from that was a clear act.

It would make the situation more palatable, one supposes, if Corona were indeed made of dried justice stuff. But his performance as a justice has been characterized by legal orthodoxy at mediocrity. Critics say that he appears to have crapped his "continuing legal education" when he became a justice of the Court.

All this does not augur well for the country. Not does a possible Noynoy Binay candida, if the likes of Trillo and Lorin Tanis are to be believed (and I consider them to be very principled). Trillo texted me thusly: "El Tibanie i am so incensed at the news article of 0516 by Jo Santos eht in June as part of the radical that Noynoy's running mate Binay's further loss of truth. Lorin and I voted 4 Mamapasano last. It d very beginning! In fact I only heard abt d Nay8 campaign a few wks ago. I never believed in this plan to oust Erap/Dap/Mar/Santo. Didn it b tch at first of Jo who's not only in Congress of (maybe that's why) 3 years at a national office to establish a gov't based on honesty, integrity & decency which are lacks that Noy & Mar is all abt. I also hate the kind of dirtastic hits d ruse plan to bring Noy & Mar to victory is NOT GOOD 4 NOY. It's going to make him look bad! Sometimes I pk you're not trusted again! But a favor it recommend Rasos-thur read! Sr. Infact we bat be praying 4 sisters (sanctus 8 0516 is another name 4 us) to implore God to make Mar wins! And we continue to do so. This is a most realistic concern of our politicos. And we count it a blessing that we have a President who listens to our name and signature..." Slightly hysterical, but definitely sincere. Amen.

And speaking of Noynoy's Cabinet appointments, Harvey Keh texted me and suggested the name of Mayor Jesse Robredo as interior secretary. Keh said he can improve the image of Jesse Robredo's track record and reputation are of the highest. Nothing mediocre about him, as I would the motion.

Given the overwhelming mandate, and trust, bestowed on him by the people, Noynoy has to be careful. He has to listen and get his counsel from the best, brightest and cleanest...not to mention indefatigable—if he is to deliver on his campaign promises of good governance. Tall order for his early term.

The historic TV5-SWS Exit Poll

LAST MONDAY'S TV5-SWS EXIT POLL, DONE by Social Weather Stations in cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and the Legal Network for Truthful Elections (Lente), under sponsorship of the PLDT (SMART) Foundation in behalf of the Associated Broadcasting Company, was a first, as far as Philippine opinion research.

The TV5-SWS Exit Poll pioneered in surveying voters in the open, upon leaving the voting centers (VCs), rather than in the privacy of their homes or offices, as was the usual haste-done before.

A home-based exit poll has the advantage of avoiding harassment by partisans, but the closed vantage of having to wait for voters to get home, hours after voting. With the advent of automated vote-counting machines (VCMs) in 1992 adopted the VC-based type of exit poll, as used in advanced democracies, to hasten completion and reporting to the public.

The key role of Stanford and Lente in the TV5-SWS Exit Poll was to instruct the field pollsters, prior to deployment, on how to cope with potential security problems in the vicinity of VCs, and to link them to Namfrel/Lente volunteers for help in case of emergency. (Thankfully, there were no serious problems—helped, I think, by the agreement of the partisans not to publicize the project until May 14.)

The TV5-SWS Exit Poll adhered to provisions of the Fair Election Act: exit pollsters were at least 50 meters away from VCs, voter discussion TV5-SWS Exit Poll clothing and identification cards, and informed respondents that they could refuse to answer. Election cast results were announced only after close of voting.

Last Monday, the SWS website reported that the exit poll had a national sample of 802 VCs, distributed by the 7 regions as follows: NCR (108, 13.5); 45; II, 31; III, 88; IV-A, 107; IV-B, 23; V, 44; VI, 62; VII, 62; VIII, 38; IX, 26; X, 38; XI, 46; XII, 32; ARMM, 30; and Caraga, 20. In previous cities of a region, the number of VCs was allotted in proportion to registered voters (RVs), and sample VCs were chosen with probability proportional to RVs. The interviews of a VC were weighted by its 2010 number of RVs, multiplied by the province's voting turnout rate in 2004, the last presidential election year.

SWS did the TV5-SWS Exit Poll without outsourcing any operations. It fielded over 1,800 persons, and had 1,518 encoding stations in its offices to accommodate incoming data.

The TV5-SWS pollsters were taught that exit polling is legal, and part of freedom of speech, per ruling of the Supreme Court. They were trained to be strictly non-partisan, to approach voters in a steady pace during voting hours, and not to accept voters volunteering to be interviewed.

The TV5-SWS Exit Poll reported an average of 40 interviews per VC, or a national sample of about 32,000 interviews. However, by 5 p.m. of May 11, exit poll results had been computed from an unconditional sample of 31,822 interviews, based on 793 of the 802 sample VCs. Late submissions from the remaining 71 sample VCs are being processed and will raise the sample size further.

The questionnaire of the TV5-SWS Exit Poll was designed by SWS together with HSF. In all divisions in asking about votes for national candidates, and standard demographics (gender, age, education, social class, religion, etc.), it asked: (a) if "platform" or else "personality" was the basis for choice of president; (b) for the time when the choice of president was made; (c) whether voting was easier or harder now than before, and (d) expectations regarding 432 governorships, (e) personal quality of life, and (f) the national economy. Analysis is being done by SWS and Abad, a soft copy of the raw data will be available for public use in due course.

Secretary Based on the May 11 database of 15,822 interviews, the TV5-SWS Exit Poll's voting percentages for presidential ans: Aquino 42.8, Estrada 29.1, Villar 14.2, Teodoro 10.1, Villanueva 3.3, Gordon 1.1, Madrigal 0.23, De los Reyes 0.15, and Perlas 0.12, out of 87.9 percent believing essays like Acosta's.

The Exit Poll's TV-presenters are: Binay 46.7, Roxas 39.9, Legarda 9.9, Fernando 3.0, Marcoleta 0.6, Tatay 1.2, Dispora 0.3 and Isetan 0.2, out of 96.4 percent (excluding draw). When the exit poll was complete, in reality, to nearest 0.1%, may be compared with this Exit Poll's results.

If an exit poll is generally accurate on the election outcome, then to other findings are of commensurate quality.

- For instance, the TV5-SWS Exit Poll finds the Aquino vote strongly related to education. The Aquino vote was 61 percent for 38 point nationally but is 75 point among college graduates. The second choice of college graduates is Teodoro, not Estrada.

- Aquino got 77 percent of the upscale ABC class vote. Evidence of the solidity of the PDP vote comes from mass poll.

- In the TV5-SWS Exit Poll, only 65 percent of Aquino voters voted for Roxas, while 28 percent of them voted for Binay. However, 72 percent of Estrada voters voted for Binay, and only 13 percent voted for Roxas. Binay was the top VP choice of voters for Estrada, Villar, Teodoro and Villanueva.

- Binay appeals to the youth. He got Roxas by 11 points in ages 18-24, by 5-6 points in ages 25-44, and by 1 point in ages 45-54, whereas Roxas tops Binay by 9 points among seniors aged 55 up.

- Roxas tops Binay by 2 points among college graduates, but Binay tops him by 9-5 points among the far greater number with partial college or partial high school.

- Binay's best among Catholics (+12), other Christians (+14), and Muslims (+29) is enough to offset Roxas' far greater lead among the relatively few INC voters.

Exit polling is important, whether the official vote counting is done or fair.

* * *

Contact: SWS, www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph

In dire need of contemporary heroes

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR YOUTH AND THE future of this country—most especially the Philippine educational system, which is supposed to be a major thrust and immediate reform—may our newly elected leaders be wealthy enough to become genuine role models for our students.

But need for inspiring role models and truly selfless leaders transcends apparent once more when Gamaliel Cruz, editor-in-chief of Tahanan Books, released its new biography series, "Modern Heroes for the Filipino Youth."

Taking off from the successful biographies by children featuring some Batanes Magsaysay awardees, this new affordable series of, initially, seven books is also in full color, meticulously researched by Cruz and his staff, including Lourdes Flores, illustrated by Amelia Tejido or Fr. Edmundo Fernandez, SJ, "If Life with the Poor," written by Shiela T. Rodrigo, illustrated by Albert Anne Abalos or Sister Mary Christine Tan, "The Reluctant Hero," written by Liz Anne del Prado, illustrated by Jeremie Jacinto—or Anna Teresa Ongpin, "ELSON: A Child of the Forest," written by Ed Maranan, illustrated by Axel Javellana or Edgar Manuel Aquino, "The Teacher," written by Jessie Sody, illustrated by Mikel Anne Andre or Dennis Bautista Fernandez, "The General," written by Dr. Vicente Padios Lim, "Binay Aquino: A Courageous Homecoming," written by Lara Ingalog, illustrated by Quin F. Marquez.

The courageous biography is the one on Binay at the most prominent of the modern heroes whose life story is an epic drama that fiction cannot match.

How can Binay's saga of a life so consequently lived be captured in a chat children's book? Marquez, known for his computer generated art, portrays Binay leaving the plane on time final journey with the treacherous and menacing hands on

Commentary

News Sht. Bienvenida Cruz

his shoulders and both his arms.

Suggesting begins her story in Boston on a sunny summer morning in August, a day when the sky is blue and there is sunlight on the trees. It is a warm day and yet, Binay notices, Cory is shivering. Cory and Binay are completing the packing for Binay's trip.

In the story begins, as does it end, on a "warm August afternoon in Manila. Binay could feel the rain's soft beat on his face. He was home." The accompanying illustration is not totally accurate, because it shows Binay at the top of the steps by the door of the aircraft. An actor outstretched in joy at triumph. A participant of the challenges ahead. Even that celebrated moment of homecoming, he was robbed of.

It may only symbolize what he felt about coming home, but as film clips show, he has turned grim and his mood soaken as soon as the uniformed and, later men came on board to escort him to his limo.

The author and Binay fan club at Cagayan de Tangaro University was not present but her father Binay spoke in his behalf, regaling the crowd with Binay anecdotes, including meeting him in person, during which Binay spoke 99 percent of the time. Truly quite a feat to suit all to him.

One never knew of the early years of Binay from the History Channel just promised a documentary on the assassination—the duties and campaign opponents leader who would have been president, who dreamt of being president, who deserved to be president; but who, in mystical ways of fate, had two reluctant members of his family become president, instead. But I digress!

This is an excellent introduction to the unsung hero of modern Philippine history, and it prepares the reader's curiosity to learn more about him. Teachers can use this—and the other books in the series—for inclusion and true-to-life classroom instruction.

There can never be a surfeit of heroes for the youth today. May the life stories of our new local role models multiply in number, so that the youth's thirst for heroes will be quenched with authentic ones.

For more information on this biography series in English, e-mail booksmarkt@globelines.com.ph or call 809-8001 to 05.

* * *

In our celebratory mood, let us remember with much gratitude and appreciation the premier's job that the public school teachers performed at the historic first automated elections. When one hears of the improvised instant remedies (chalkboard, a paper clip, even a broomstick and bourbon) that the DepEd resorted to grapple with IT hardware woes, one is amazed but hardly surprised. Isn't the skill of making do something teachers have preferred in their classrooms?

And that task is the oft-quoted "What Do Teachers Make?" anecdote where dinner guests are deprived of clever individuals who turn to teaching for their career option. How can they teach their children anything of significance? And blow the teacher in their company who answers: "I make kids wonder... I make them question... I make a difference... I help make them and oft, next election happen will little or no training...

This will be the numbers who did not make our worst fears happen.

Send fax: Bienvenida Cruz (mvcruz@gmail.com) is a member of the Philippine Board of Books for Young People, the Foundation for Philippine Book Development, and a trustee of the Ani Kabir Kuikio Foundation.

Are free trade agreements necessary?

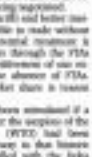
IF WE CONTINUE DOING OUR CURRENT growth spurt, we will find ourselves falling further behind our neighbors. Where we carry does some, their economies, driven by powerful export engines, will rise at higher RPMs while we will continue to drag along at an engine speed barely above idling.

Our economy has been kept afloat by OFW remittances that have fueled consumption spending, which accounts for nearly three quarters of our economy. Government spending, public and private investments and net exports—which is the difference between the country's exports of goods and services minus what we import—barely 1 percent of GDP. We are decidedly a consumer nation more than a producer nation.

Leading a one economy from the supply side, we have become a service economy. Our service sector contributes 53 percent of GDP, employing 35 percent of the workforce. Agriculture has declined to 13 percent of GDP but it employs 34 percent of workers in low-income or non-wage jobs in contrast to industry's share of 30 percent of the economy while employing only 15 percent of the total labor force. Since it is obvious from the output labor ratio that the industrial sector produces the highest value per employee, growing a service economy at the expense of industry is not necessarily a boon. Indeed of course, that growth in consumption and in the service sector is driven like business process outsourcing.

If we persist in producing mainly for ourselves, our overall growth will be limited to the rate of growth of our domestic market. And growing the market for goods is limited by the rate of population growth (a definitely not the answer).

"Frontier squeeze" Murray Sayles should plant the development of manufacturing for exports higher in the economic development spiral. Expanding exports of goods is the key to (a) increasing our overall productivity, (b) increasing our growing (infer, (c) providing higher quality jobs in the country, hence raising average wage levels, and (c) weaning ourselves away from our heavy



Rizalino S. Navarro

dependence on OFW remittances.

While Philippine companies have generally been looking inward, growing mainly in the domestic market, most of our neighbors have been looking outward, seeking markets abroad, helped along by their governments' engaging bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). As of February 2010, Iran Asia had 81 FTAs in effect in the region, with an additional 46 being negotiated.

Free trade agreements are the second-best option available to our competitors through the FTAs they forge, thus the competitiveness of our exports is undermined by the absence of FTAs. Hence, preventing our market share is reason enough to engage in FTAs.

Our reports could have been stimulated if a global trade agreement under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO) had been reached. However, on the way to that historic agreement, negotiations stalled with the Doha Round that began in 2001. When the standstill became untenable for our neighbors, they turned to, and self-interested FTAs as the way to stimulate trade.

Unfortunately, we have been slowed off the mark, perhaps hoping the WTO agreement would be reached. But only new economic partnership agreement was with Japan. Philippine involvement in other new trade agreements has been achieved by default. As a member of the Asean, we have been included in various Asean FTAs, e.g., Asean-China FTA, Asean-Korea FTA, and Asean-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Growing interdependence has created a need for regional trading arrangements (RTAs). Such ecological change has given rise to regional production networks and increased intra-regional trade. Toyota, for example, has 11 manufacturing and assembly plants in Southeast Asia that cater to this market. East Asian intra-regional trade has grown to roughly 55 percent of exports—far more than half of total collective trade. This proportion is higher than that of the North American free trade area.

The FTAs and RTAs being developed in East Asia are "new age" partnership agreements aimed at not only trade and investment gaps and reducing the cost of doing business. They are not just about establishing free trade, but more importantly are about developing areas for cooperation and building capacities. The latter includes upgrading our first exporters' capability to participate in global production networks.

These new age agreements are also aimed at addressing emerging cross-border regional issues involving health issues or threats (i.e., security, terrorism), disaster response and many others where individual countries may not deal with as effectively on its own.

There have been proposals for facilitating East Asian regional integration. Currently, several RTAs are under study, most notably the East Asian Free Trade Agreement (EAFTA) involving 13 Asean countries plus China, Japan and South Korea, as well as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership for East Asia (CEPEA) involving all the Asean partnerships plus Australia, New Zealand and India. Recognizing how regional cooperation has become crucial, Asean leaders have agreed that by the end of this year, political leaders in East Asia are now looking toward realization of an East Asian Community.

We are indeed quite fortunate to be located in the most dynamic region in the world. But if we are not geared up for its promise, we will end up at the tail-end of its growth.

* * *

Readers: S. Navarro was the trade secretary in 1986-1990.

Moving forward

I WAS FORTUNATE TO JOIN OUR COLLEGE'S faculty directly after I graduated in 2007. Since then, I have never missed the university commencement exercises not after year. Call me shallow, but I like wearing the black academic gown, complemented by the green hood hood representing the fact that I already have a degree, which sets me apart from those who are just entering theirs. I like the fact that my cap's tassel is on the left side, whereas the graduating students have theirs on the right, although they will be switching it to the left once the university president or chancellor confers on them the degrees they have worked hard to earn. I have always been fascinated by the different regalia professors wear, especially those who have obtained post-graduate degrees from universities overseas. Some look like cardinals of the Church, while others look as if they have been transported from the renaissance. Of course, they look hilarious, but then I understand the grandeur those robes represent in the academe. I am not yet wearing a regalia but there was a emergent motivation for me to pursue a master's degree than receiving tenure and professorial status in the university.

For the past three years, I have regarded graduations (including my own) as a show, something like the Oscars or the Emmy Awards, but in academe. But this year, it was different—may much different.

Earlier during the school year, I decided to leave teaching in order to focus on two things: earning my master's degree and doing my clinical practice. It was the toughest decision I ever had to make, because being a teacher was my dream. I remember that when I could not qualify to be a scholar, or later I informed the dean of my intention. And when word got around that I was not renewing my contract to teach, it was both heart-warming and depressing at the same time to hear my students and colleagues protesting my decision, they I managed to keep my poise and all, until graduation day let loosely 20:30.

Then for the first time, I felt the true meaning of graduation. I sorrowfully bisted the academic chapter of my life goodbye and embraced my chance to have a brand new start. I cried. I teared my heart to the sight and sound at those who were graduating, and I thought of how it was more appropriate for me to cry of where they were seated. It shows the tears emotions they were feeling, to show their obedience and their optimism as they begin making for themselves better lives and helping turn their country into a better place. It dawned on me that after that day, I would be one with those graduates in looking for our place in this world, and striving to become the best that we can be.

The cheers and applause sounded like thunder to me. I thought that the hard-standing ovation given by the second was well-deserved. I was felt proud and felt that somehow I also deserved a part of the ovation.

It is hard to let go of something you love but I guess that if it is the only way to move forward, then letting go is worth the price. Now that I have graduated, I realize, I told myself that one day after I shall have achieved my goals, I will be back in that place, wearing with honor the most tedious, most laborious and most distinguished academic gown the graduates have ever seen.

Kim Kristoffer Tort, 23, is a speech-language pathologist. He was a member of the faculty of the College of Allied Medical Professions of the University of the Philippines Manila Campus since his graduation in 2007.

On our way

Ma. Glory Galleto

THE SKY WAS BRIGHT TODAY. THE CLOUDS COVERED most of the sky, but it was still bright. I have been trying to write something for quite a long time now, but somehow I can't. I turned off the radio and instantly heard the rushing wind and the tricycle banging against the wood. It's amazing how much you see if you open your eyes and close all the noise and the commotion. You just see the landscape around. I found myself staring at the sky and dreaming of what could be.

My father was a good teacher, my mother said. He would sit by my side when I was a kid and teach me stuff. I did might be wrong, but I remember him now or his voice or how he spoke. I can't remember what he looked like.

But I still always know who he was. He was a good man, he was a godly man, he was my father. The little pictures he brought home to me will always remind me of him.

My mother endures her bachelor and does our small household chores night and day. She had to step up for us when my father died. It was a great opportunity for me to grow up watching someone like her live her life.

She told me once that she was not a great teacher, but the greatest way to learn is not to listen to every word being said but to observe how things are done. A life well lived speaks more eloquently than a testimony well said.

I guess today, I am saying, yes it is a real cut-place in the road kl. We try to be the greatest we must in be. In the process, we encounter certain things, like difficult events and difficult people. Sometimes we might be led astray because of our own cruel weaknesses. That's why we need a strong foundation so that we can withstand those things.

But the one certain thing that came to me in trouble could strengthen us and help us achieve greater things or get to where we should be. At this juncture, when destiny has chosen for us not to do or we become what we have chosen to be.

Sometimes it seems that time runs slowly, but there are times when time does fly. But no matter how slow or fast it goes, there is no escape from the reality.

I guess I am on my way to finding out what I have been born to do and where I am needed. It can be scary at times, but in order to succeed and become what we dream to be, we need to risk failing and getting hurt. We cannot be afraid to make mistakes because we will, and such mistakes help us learn and instill in us who what we will be. When we fall, we must pick ourselves up because it is the only way we will get to where we want to be.

Ms. Glory Galleto, 19, is an accounting student at the Holy Cross of Davao College.

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Noy to need us still

LETTERS

THE PHILIPPINE ELECTION IS OVER. I HAVE received no Operation, Oklahoma where I have spent much of the last 20 years of my life. I felt, as writers – in my heart, many more months ago – to join the campaign of Benigno Aquino to run for the future of our country.

At last, here on earth, beginning, breathing, breathless ing hundred-twenty days, marked by hours of frustration, stress, frustration and also by special moments of excitement, passion, kinship, hope and indefatigable joy.

I did not lack energy or enthusiasm. I immersed myself completely in the campaign, fully involved in town meetings, debates, media engagements. I spoke, inhabited, partied, proselytized, persuaded and in the end, I placed Mabuhay in the hearts of many.

What did I accomplish?

Looking back now, in the glacial Oklahoma spring, I have a simple answer: Onbyod.

Year to my scale as a physician and my calling as a Filipino, I answered who called Noynoy on his decision to run and Filipinos at home and abroad responded, and now we have a new President-Aquino.

This was not an exercise in marriage. It was a collective expression of hope.

Hope shared by millions who government corruption would be smashed, as indeed it will be; that now zero in the future would be harder, as indeed they will; that the hopes of Filipino families would be lighter, and life, somehow, would be better, as indeed they will.

It is why I unplugged and justified even with – and a Senate seat, but with the knowledge that I have been, in my life, a witness to a small part of the way to President Noynoy, and in the final analysis, to the Filipino people whom he will serve honestly and well.

A few words of caution primarily to all the men and women who [illegible] hungry more than I had expected [illegible] who grew the campaign massive and moral support. In behalf of Brenner and to my own behalf, let me say, thank you. Mamamiya, maraming salamat. All of us can say together with one voice, in this grand season of harvest: [illegible].

Yet the struggle is not over. The work it was done. Actually, it began next and will continue with every passing day President Noynoy will continue to need us, each one of us – Noynoy on his left or Chris on his right, Mar on his left, Jesse on his right in our movement, marching to our cooperation, and maneuvering in our dedication to help him recover and restore the hope of a nation which seemed to have been irretrievably lost.

—MARTIN B. HAYDEN, MD.
mayden@cpmh.com

Be grateful GMA named manicurist not horse

THE AGENC-DEFENDED AGENT PRESIdent Mwanguid Aarvan's appointment of her manicurist as a member of the board of directors of the Pag-Ibig Fund (see [illegible]) is a Palace update answers to create online because he claimed [illegible] that the qualifications requirements for the position.

I agree with the spokesman. It would have been far worse if the President had appointed horses to Philippine ambassadors in the treasured ones like Calapala, engineer of the Roman Empire, appointed a horse as his ambassador to a foreign country.

History tells us that during the last years of his reign, Caligula squandered vast sums of money on [illegible] for his favorite horse. Let us hope that the history of the Roman Empire of old will not repeat itself in our beloved Philippines.

—J. C. BELTRAN SR.,
[illegible]

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Ako Bicol head belies report on 'barber's cut'

I WRITE IN CONNECTION WITH FOR ARTIcle "Ako Bikol just [illegible] was in elections" (November 9, 2009). While I cannot control what someone says in Congress is to exist or having a barber's cut." I think the report [illegible] comment, was never [illegible] consider implicit [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Puno retires, calls Corona 23rd Chief Justice

From page A1

marking a joke.

"If it is of any help, I am willing to file a petition for habeas data to change the date of my birthday. But I know that is the wrong remedy," he said.

Puno will retire on Monday when he turns 70, the mandatory retirement age in the judiciary.

Intellectual aristocrat

Puno had earlier chosen Corona as the recipient of the Amicus Curiae Award for writing justices and the statutorily of the Lady Justice.

In Puno's statement, Corona, Sr., will be remembered as the chief justice who "intellectual aristocrat" who remained polished and unpretentious in his profession.

"Chief Justice Puno will no doubt be recognized as one of the greatest Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of the Philippines," he said.

As

SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

MARTIN Reyes of UP (left) and Ateneo's Christian Polntz dispute possession in the fourth period of their game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Abueva leads SSC charge; UP triumphs

By Jasmine W. Payo

CALVIN ABUEVA CAME OFF THE BENCH TO LEAD San Sebastian's fiery second-quarter assault as the Stags routed the St. Benilde Blazers, 85-68, yesterday and inched closer to a quarterfinal berth in the PBSF Flying V Bandaya Inter-Five Preseason Invitational Cup.

Three other Stags scored in twin digits, but it was Abueva who keyed their fourth win with seven points, including a pair of jams, in San Sebastian's second-quarter breakaway at the PBSF Flying V Arena.

"We struggled early on the defensive end, but as soon as the second unit played, everything came well," said Stags coach Ato Agustin.

The Blazers fell to their fourth loss in as many games in the tournament hosted by Mighty Bond Interiors, Total Philippine Corp., San Marino Corned Tuna, Accel, PBSF, Flying V and Hotembrands.

In the second game, Martin Reyes fired 20 points and rookie Mike Silangan added 13 as University of the Philippines thwarted Ateneo University, 86-79, for its fourth win in six outings. Arellano dropped to 2-3.

In Juniors play, Emilio Aguinaldo College blasted ABU, 79-66, and Holland upended De La Salle-Zobel, 69-57. (With a report from Dandan Ray A. Rodriguez)

The scores:

First Game

SAN SEBASTIAN (85) – Abueva 18, Jumapao 12, Ogunsanya 12, Santos 11, Manuel 9, Sangalang 8, Delfin 5, J. Salvador 5, Salamat 2, Dela Cruz 2, Mabulac 2, Lastimosa 0

ST. BENILDE (68) – Nikolai 15, Yeso 14, Lastimoso 12, De Guzman 9, Tan 6, Dela Rosa 5, Bautista 3, Mendoza 1, Medrano 0, Sevilla 0, Wong 0

Quarters: 32-12, 50-31, 67-50, 85-68

Second Game

UP (86) – Reyes 20, Silangan 13, Cu 10, Sison 10, Padilla 8, Jamsuy 6, Lopez 5, Tuano 5, Mariano 3, Lozano 1, Alfaro 1, Longakit 0

ATENEO (79) – Torres 19, Ildefonso 14, Gonzalez 12, Ando 11, Ramos 6, Ayaay 5, Ramirez 4, Cruz 3, Salvacion 1, Tiongson 0, Ilustre 0, Tolentino 0

Quarters: 20-18, 39-40, 61-61, 86-79

New-look Texters flog skidding Tigers

By Mikeerg B. Castillo

TALK 'N TEXT KAMIKIE SHOWED ANY signs it was adjusting to two major additions last night as it stormed to its sixth straight victory—the tournament's second longest winning streak—in the PBA Fiesta Conference with a 103-93 spilling of Coca-Cola at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

With new recruits Kelly Williams and Ryan Reyes perfectly fitting in, the Tropang Texters were in full command all game, chasing 21 points from Jhaymo Eustaquio and nine digits from Jayson Castro and nine digits from Jimmy Alapag.

"We seemed to approach this game with more effort, though I thought that Coca-Cola needed it more," coach Chot Reyes told reporters. "We were as fluid as we normally are."

The Tigers, despite the arrival of new import Rashad Bell, slipped to their fifth straight loss.

Alaska dozed out its first round stint with a 5-4 slate after getting 25 points and 15 rebounds from Dioncee Simpson in an 82-73 victory over Rain or Shine in the second game.

LA Tenorio dropped 19 markers as the Aces put the Elasto Painters at 4-5.

Williams, the former MVP while with Sta. Lucia, pumped 23 points and Reyes chipped in five as both played for just a combined 44 minutes.

"It feels great wearing this uniform," Reyes, one of the premier guards in the league, said. "Whenever I land, I play my hardest."

Reyes the coach sounded excited after executing the two superstars, reportedly so since it was he who discovered both in the United States several years back.

"We're coming full circle and we hope to take this as far as we can," the mentor said of his reunion with Williams and Reyes. "Aside from their obvious physical attributes, what made us want to get them was their willingness to play hard."

Carey Dowd scored 23 points, 17 of them in the first half, to lead the Tigers, who got 18 from Bell and 14 points and 11 boards from Asi Taulava.

Meanwhile, Derby ace gains for a third straight win today when the Llanadan battle slumping Air21 in a Fiesta Pool-preserved road game at the Dasmariñas Multi-Purpose Covered Court/Sports Center in Cavite.

The scores:

TALK 'N TEXT (103) – Castro 23, Carlson 20, Pilapil 12, Ilustre 12, Alapag 9, Ulboge 9, Cahilig 10, Alejandro 10, Reyes 5, Ho 3, Gamboa 0

COCA-COLA (93) – Bell 31, Ayo 18, Dalupan 14, Mariano 13, Yeo 7, Ilustre 10, Cruzada 7, Cruz 5, Miller 3, Yeo 1, Lanete 1, Hubalde 0, Rufino 0

Quarters: 24-18, 50-44, 71-73, 103-93

FREED! Talk 'N Text recruit Kelly Williams cuts through the Coca-Cola defense and up for an R. Reyes, RJ Rizada and Dennis Espino. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Summer fun this May at NUVALI!

The heat is on at NUVALI as it plays host to a series of Outdoor Sports and Adventure events this summer.

Ayala Land Inc.'s NUVALI the Philippines' premiere 1,000-hectare mixed-use growth center in Laguna believes in maintaining a good balance between urban and environmental sustainability and a dynamic lifestyle. To encourage more Filipinos to trade in the couch routine for the great outdoors, NUVALI has lined-up a series of unique summer events for the month of May.

The Men's Health All Terrain Race, the annual flagship event of Men's Health magazine (Philippines), will be on May 16. This event will challenge participants to an off-road foot and bike race through NUVALI's natural landscape which crosses over paved roads, grass lands, scenic rivers, and jeep-like ravines. The 6k, 10k, and 15k routes are available for trail runners; 30k to 40k for bike riders; and 10k to 20k for mixed category.

The Bull Runner Dream Marathon on the 22nd of May is the first-ever run in the country staged exclusively for first and second-time marathoners as extensive preparation to reach their ultimate running goal of finishing their first 42k marathon through the help of running sessions with world-renowned running coach Jim Lafferty and the Second Wind runners guiding the 500 participants.

To cap off this hot and exhilarating month, the first leg of the Columbia Trail Masters Duathlon will kick-off on May 30. The 5k run-30k bike-5k run duathlon competition series is open for both men and women looking for a different kind of thrill on the dirt and nature track.

"NUVALI is now the fast-rising regional growth center of CALABARZON and our vision extends to making it the best sports and outdoor destination as well," says NUVALI SVP and General Manager Jun Blanco. "These Outdoor Adventure races are open to everyone. They will not only test athletic limits, but will allow everyone to commune with nature while getting a good work out. NUVALI's beautiful landscape and natural features is the perfect site for these sporting activities."

For the eco-lovers, NUVALI presents the much-awaited Solenad Summerfest until May 30. In restatement of NUVALI's goal for social responsibility and sustainability, the festival activities will focus on three themes: Green, Inspired, and Active Evolving (Evolved way of living).

Green Evolving will introduce people to the idea of going green. This will include the Evolving Your Ground NUVALI, the Green Weekend organic market and bazaar (May 15 and 16), Regpi/Richies talk, and recyclable craft workshop. Nature as a muse will be the heart of Inspired Evolving with activities such as book reading by National Bookstore, poetry reading by Alitaptap, a photography class, and live performances from various artists. Active Evolving will showcase basketball and soccer clinics, wall climbing, pot exhibition and health and wellness consultation.

Set yourself and your family for bigger goals and a healthier way of living with these month-long activities that you can find only at NUVALI. NUVALI is indeed the place where people and nature thrive.

For more information on NUVALI and its upcoming events, visit www.nuvali.ph or call 0917-6-NUVALI (0917-668-8254).

WORLD OF SPORTS

Federer, Nadal advance

MADRID—ROGER FEDERER AND RAFAEL Nadal comfortably reached the quarterfinals of the Madrid Masters on Thursday.

The top-ranked Federer beat Swiss countryman Stanislas Wawrinka, 6-2, 6-1, and second-seeded Nadal rose off big-serving John Isner of the United States, 7-6, 6-4.

In the quarterfinals, defending champion Federer will play Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, who beat Feliciano Lopez.

In the women's third-round, Alexandra Dulgheru beat Polly Schnyder, 7-6 (3), 6-2, to set up a quarterfinal showdown with Venus Williams. AP

Orcollo gains round-of-32

BOARD SPECIALIST ALEXANDER "LITO" Orcollo survived Lucio Xavier Cortezo and cruised today in the 2010 Derby Pinoy World Pool Masters at the Fiesta Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Orcollo outlasted countryman Jeremy Sacobian, 9-4, in their do-or-die match in Group 5 on Friday. He joins Antonio Gomez in the round of 32, which starts today using the single knockout format.

Orcollo will face Dennis De Manzo Chantel, who topped the Filipino ranks, 9-6. Gomez seeks a repeat win over The Nathan Renoh/Hoodie Bonzalez all-Filipino in Mob Group 2 that night.

After dominating Carlo Cabello of Spain (9-2), Cortezo suffered consecutive losses to American foes in Group E, bowing to JR Spare (9-ball) veteran John Schmidt (9-6) and Jayson Shaw (9-4).

The reigning national open champion that followed suddenly completed Dennis "Nato" Pierras of Panama, "Django" Bonifacio and Ronald Alcano in the nets.

If successful, Orcollo will next face the winner between Raj Hundal of India and Ernesto Dominguez while Gomez may meet the winner of the Dennis Hatch-Jayson Glatt setto in the ball 36.

The World Pool Masters champion will take home $250,000.

VETERAN gunner Ray Allen of the Boston Celtics shoots one home on the break against the Cleveland Cavaliers. AFP

Celtics complete ouster of Cavs

LeBron's future in question

BOSTON—THE BOSTON CELTICS AScounted to the NBA Eastern Conference finals with a 94-80 victory over Cleveland in Game 6 on Thursday, sending LeBron James and the Cavaliers to an early offseason.

Kevin Garnett scored 22 points and added 11 rebounds, and Rajon Rondo had 21 points and 12 assists to reach the East finals against the Orlando Magic, who are unbeaten in the playoffs after sweeping Charlotte and Atlanta in the opening rounds.

"Winning is gratifying. You've playing the best team in basketball; the challenge is there; you don't have to cheat it up," Garnett said. "One thing we don't lack is confidence. We're a veteran team and are undefeated when it's time to lock in as a group. We did just that."

Despite his ninth career playoff triple-double, James is handed his another premature offseason after winning a second MVP award and leading the Cavs to an NBA-best 61 wins in the regular season.

"The regular season is a lot different than this postseason," Cavaliers coach Mike Brown said. "Boston stepped up, and we didn't."

This offseason is destined to define the future of the franchise—and the star of the NBA, too.

James is eligible to opt out of his contract this summer, a move that would make the seven-time MVP a free agent and set off a scramble in his hometown Akron Brew York to obtain one of Los Angeles and, of course, back in Cleveland.

"I just told him, 'Keep your head up, man. I've been there,'" said Garnett, who won a star without a title in Minnesota for more than a decade before joining the Celtics and leading them to their NBA-record 17th championship in 2008.

James scored 27 points with 10 assists, and his 39 rebounds matched a career high and were the most he's ever had in a playoff game. But he also had nine turnovers. AP

Ateneo spikers lose ace Soriano to injury

SHARKY'S VILLENEUVE
JAMES TORMOHEN
(PBA Rising 5 Series)
7 p.m.—Game Three
vs Lyceum
Go to SportsStarMagazine
for Preview

By Jaymiko M. Pepo

ATENEO VOLLEYBALL STAR CHARO SORIano sustained a season-ending injury late Thursday, prompting the Lady Eagles to plot new strategies for the Shakey's V-League season 7 semifinals starting tomorrow.

Soriano, a veteran middle hitter, tore her right anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) during the quarterfinal match versus by the University of Santo Tomas (win Ateneo, 25-18, 25-21, 19-25, 29-27, 15-6, last Thursday.

The Lady Eagles plan to tap guest player Michelle Laborte, a former Ateneo mainstay/overseer who recently hosted up the elimination University of St. La Salle's rookie.

Ateneo will clash with San Sebastian in the first of three semifinals at 6 p.m. tomorrow at the FEUD Flying V Arena.

UST, bidding for a third straight championship, will take on Lyceum in the other Vand Four pairing at 2 p.m.

Soriano will undergo surgery next week, according to team officials.

The Lady Eagles were ahead in the fourth set at 23-22 when Soriano suffered an awkward ball and foot her right knee.

Pacquiao's greatest win of all time

BOXER TURNED LEGISLATOR MANNY PACQUIAO would dismantle Rios, ALLEGI

That, in a golden nutshell, was how assistant Manny Pacquiao cared his knew ex- simple.

It was another unanimous decision, few, but this definitely crown as his most significant triumph.

Do remember that he had to get up from the floor—he suffered a sonic slumping in his first ry—after he failed in his bid for Congress three years ago.

Now, call it a comeback win, a vengeful knockout, but Pacquiao was in his deepest love when he regained a decision seat in the House of Representatives on Monday.

He stepped out from highly heated fray Olongapo.

* * *

"This seem to be the greatest achievement of my career," Pacquiao was quoted by premier international manchanger Bob Arum as saying.

But how really big was the election win?

"We have 10 Million—still he counts votes—Abbe and we are planning a candidate reference of the upcoming in," Arum told Fighthouse.com. "These are very exciting times. What we know for sure the election, Manny told me that it made him so happy, even more than the big emotion in the ring."

* * *

What else can

"He sure told me something that really touched me. He said, 'Bob, I am so proud of what I have accomplished.'"

When interview kept shot to you, Arum said, you know it was a life long dream of his.

"He pulled it off and I am so happy for him. I have never seen anything like it and to see it's the pinnacle."

* * *

Was it the change of venue—Pacquiao has nationality in his first political bout in General Santos City—or the change in visionary and style that did it?

Arum, terribly amazed at Pacquiao's phenomenal political comeback, swore he wouldn't be too surprised if the world's best boxer could go President of the Philippines.

"Where he's 33 he can run for Senator and when he's 40, I can sure he will be President of the Philippines. He is sensational as in boxing as he is by outside him as part of the sport."

Arum, ending how Pacquiao fans' boys wincluttered in the run-up to Monday's polls, could be having the last laugh.

* * *

"Everybody said he was crazy spending his own money," Arum noted. "Money is no bundle and it's not spoken, you think, how can he be a politician? Then you go on his rally and you hear him speak in the native dialect and he gives a rousing speech that brings the crowd to its feet. It is tremendous choice his speech, even though you don't even understand a word."

Arum himself can't stop raving him.

"There are eleven major chefs in the Philippines and Manny Pacquiao can speak every one of them."

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Nat'l age-group chess begins

By Ray Luarca

DAVAO CITY—IT'S THE YOUNGSTERS' turn to show their prowess when the National Age-Group Championships begins to hold here starting today at the SCCC Mall.

Some 150 players have confirmed their participation with more from nearby provinces expected to join, according to tournament organizers James InDavao.

An annual undertaking of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines headed by Prospero "Butch" Pichay and secretary general and Tagaytay Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino, the Age-Group meet will run up to May 23.

It will be followed by the National Junior Chess Championships on May 29 to 31 at the Gaisano Mall.

A short opening ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. with Mayor Sara Duterte expected to attend. Also invited are Regie Padac, board manager of Grosec multivitamins, and Stephil Sualzano Secretary James Galvez.

SPORTSWATCH

NCA supports Global Slasher derby

MEMBERS OF THE PBA UNDERPAID AMATEUR COCKEYS ASSOCIATION (NCA) will be among the top bidders in the Global Slasher 8-Cock International Derby on May 15 and 21 at the Pasay City Cockpit.

NCA president Ito Ynares confirmed yesterday his group's allsupport to NCA member and derby host Patrick Antonio, boasting the number of entries to more than 75 of the international cocklash.

The PCC management is raking P3.5 million in guaranteed prize with the champion receiving a silver cup courtesy of Amyrex.

Longshots pace Rambulan Bulletag at SJC

JAMES RAJOS CAMAYON, BRIDGEPORT FOR THE PRESIDENTS cup to endure their impressive runs in the PE Cockfair Pambulan Bulletag Derby which resumes today at the San Juan Coliseum.

The derby series will have three more days of competition, May 16, 11, 18, 23 and 24.

Among the early winners were longshots Johny Bonbo and Lito Bonifacio Batangas, T. Cabs of Cavite, Bongz Balita of Cisarma province, Poppy Tanza and Jimmy Mial, Butchoy Olanca/CPA Land Tony Cebu Province.

Hops, UST dispute Shakey's crown

DEFENDING CHAMPION Hope Christian School and title favorite University of Santo Tomas knocked off Underbelly of the national's field Laguna in the semifinals last Thursday to arrange a duel for the Shakey's Girls' Volleyball League MCR crown at the Araneta qun.

Hope CS turned back UPHL, 25-20, 25-20, 25-18 in the first semifinal match.

UST then ended UPHL's hopes with a tough 25-15, 25-22, 16-25, 25-21 victory. Hope and UST dispute the championship at 1 p.m. today.

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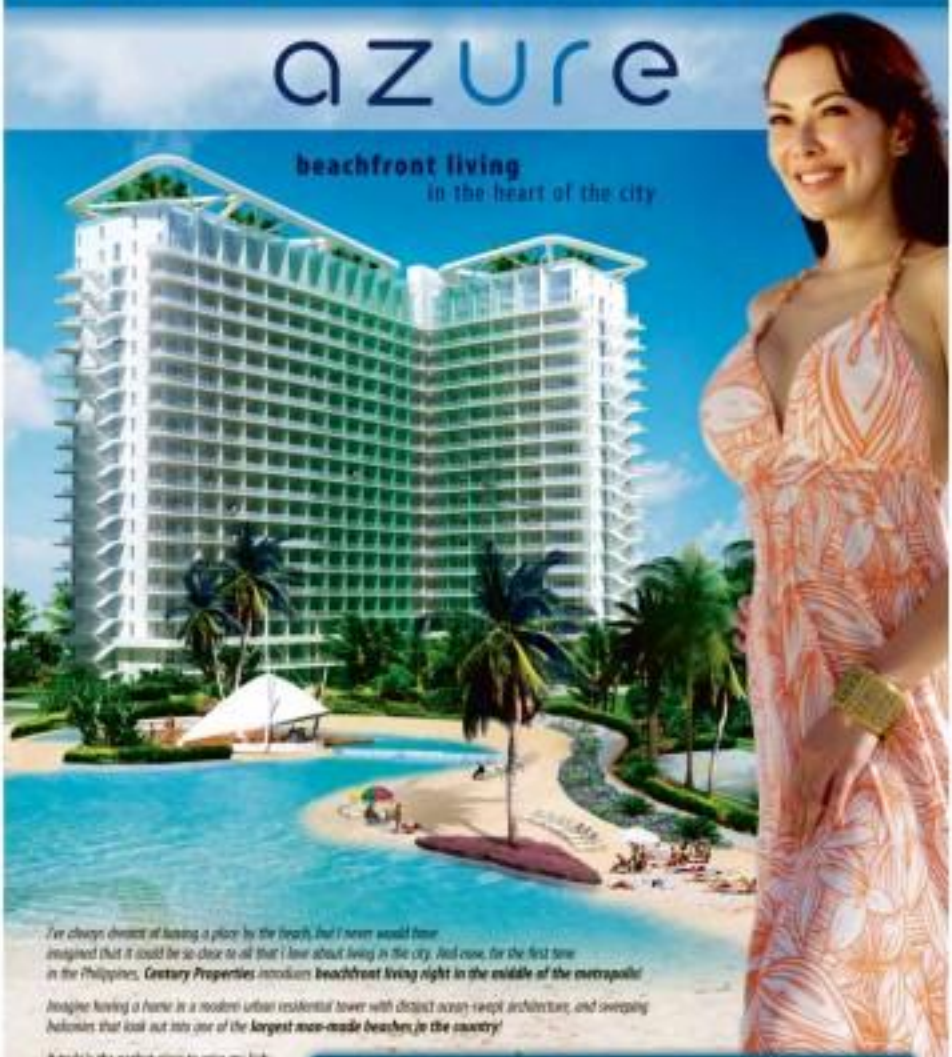

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Raffa Gutierrez

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MMDA PROPOSAL

Cleanup drive a must for pols

By Nina Calleja and Beverly Natividad

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) is asking the Metro Manila Council, the agency's policy-making body, to draft a resolution requiring national and local candidates to clean up their own clutter immediately after the elections are over.

MMDA Chair Oscar Inocentes aired this proposal as he monitored cleanup operations on the roads of Metro Manila yesterday.

Around 300 workers and four fire trucks were deployed along the stretch of Taft Avenue from Baclaran in Pasay City to Monumento in Caloocan for the cleanup drive.

The MMDA has cleared seven major roads—Edsa, Roxas Boulevard, C-5, McArthur Highway, R-10, Commonwealth Avenue and Marcos Highway—since Tuesday.

Inocentes said he had been prodding politicians to help in the cleanup, but only one candidate, outgoing Quezon City councilor and party-list nominee Bernadette Herrera-Dy, has acted on the request.

He said through the resolution he was proposing, all candidates will be compelled to tear down their posters and tarpaulins. They will be given seven days to comply or they would be fined or charged in court.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nazareno said the agency shoulders the burden of cleaning up and organizing malls plastered with posters in the metropolis at the end of the election season.

The Council, which is composed of 17 Metro Manila mayors, will convene next week to discuss the proposal.

Meanwhile, cities in the Comisyon Eleksyon Mahalnon Nasyonal Velenzuela) area have started their own cleaning operations.

Clean and green

Valenzuela City's Clean and Green Office, for example, has started deploying its clean-up crew since Tuesday to intensify campaign materials along two major thoroughfares in the area—Macarthur Highway and Marcos Road.

Clean and Green Office head Cesar Perlas said 200 workers were fielded for the drive, starting in the smaller streets after clearing Mac Arthur and Marcos of the litter.

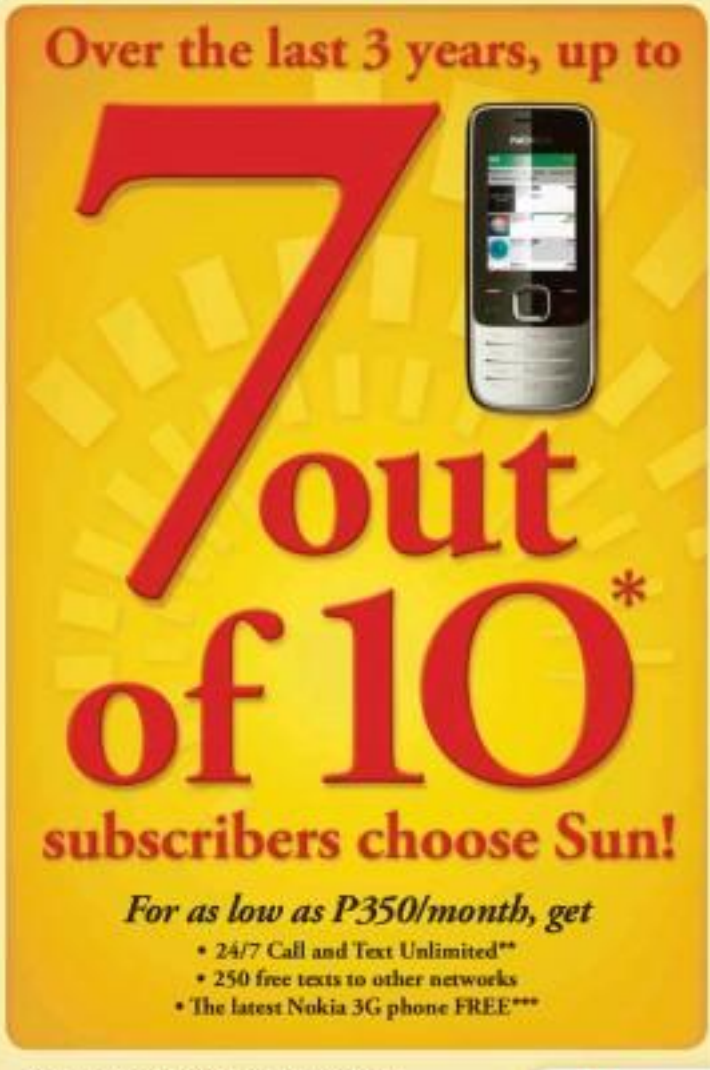
He said Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian, who is back in the mayor's seat, directed their office to complete the cleanup in two weeks.

In Malabon City, residents Mayor Canuto Oreta ordered all City Hall employees to initiate the cleanup on Thursday.

Rong Padua, the city's public information officer, said a support group equipped with trucks also assisted the government employees in removing campaign posters hanging from trees and cables.

The city also enlisted the help of firefighters to spray the walls with water in order to ease the removal of the posters.

Padua said Thursday's cleanup would comprise a citywide cleanliness campaign.



Locsin to file protest after losing in congressional race

By Nina Calleja

BY A SLIM MARGIN, THE WIFE of outgoing Makati Rep. Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin Jr. lost to a party-mate of an estranged ally, vice presidential candidate and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Ma. Lourdes "Lourd" Locsin garnered 40,860 votes, falling short of 242 votes to Independent Monique Lagdameo, PDP-Laban's bet in the congressional race in Makati's first district.

Locsin told Inquirer that she would file an election complaint in the Commission on Elections, saying her supporters were disenfranchised on Election Day.

"My supporters were literally yanked out of the polling precincts by men of the Binay-gay clique of Barangay Commerce last Monday morning," she said, adding that the chair was an ally of Lagdameo and Binay.

She added that the 500 to 600 people who decided to go home instead could have altered the results.

"The votes that I lost came in a surprise. It was really hard to believe because I was leading by more than 1,000 votes around 2:30 a.m. of Sunday. Two hours later, there was a turnaround," Locsin said.

When her supporters searched reports about how her rival campaign was manhandled allegedly by Binay's men, she said she changed her mind about not filing a protest.

Locsin said they were still trying to gather evidence like photos, videos and affidavits so he can submit it to the Comelec.

Asked if she had any regrets about joining the camp of Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, who ran for mayor against Binay's son Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay, Locsin said: "Supporting Mercado was the right thing to do. If they could dump a closet ally like him, I think of what they can they do to us."

Meanwhile, the camp of re-elected Makati mayoral candidate, Erwin Comusar, is also set to file an election protest, citing alleged vote-buying that Binay was "massive, unprecedented and obscene" on Election Day.

Elito Generalado, Comusar's information officer, said vote buyers in some precincts in Barangays Pembo and East Rembo, which were allegedly set up by the PDP-Laban party, could serve as evidence. Their camp is also asking Comelec to do a manual recount, he added.

Meanwhile, some 500 protesters held a lightning rally along J.P. Rizal Street in front of the old City Hall building, playing a campaign jingle of former Rizalo Gonzalez, who placed third in the mayoral election.

The Gonzalez supporters demanded that the Binays relinquish their more than 20 years control of the country's financial capital.

In Bamban, San Jose Binay, son of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, was proclaimed winner garnering 125,064 votes. Rival Reinato Bautista got 89,154 votes. Geanie, on the other hand, placed third with 61,203 votes.

Why the INC did not vote for Erap

ON TARGET
Raymund Jaylo

NOW THAT MR. NOYNOY Aquino's victory is certain, he probably should take heed of this unsolicited advice: Stop smiling.

Thousands of voters at a new Facebook page on the Internet, while congratulating him, have also told him to quit smiling.

Even Thayer retired the trademark of many when she wrote: "Quit smiling. Troublemaker. Hey. We voted you to be leading."

Giving up a vice is a sign of self-discipline which should be the No. 1 trait of a leader.

* * *

Deposed President Erap didn't win even in his own backyard, at San Juan, Metro Manila.

Why?

Because the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), which votes as a bloc during every election, didn't support him, unlike its sound-barked ally closest rival, Noynoy Aquino.

San Juan has a huge INC population because its headquarters used to be located in this small town of metro city.

The INC has since moved to Intramuros to rest Quezon City.

Had the Christian sect supported Erap, it would have been Noynoy complaining of being cheated of victory and not Erap.

The INC has at least seven million members of voting age.

* * *

Why didn't the INC support Erap or the other presidential candidates, and not try to hit with Aquino?

An INC insider told me the church didn't want to be identified with a convicted felon.

The church didn't vote for Manuel Villar, the other insider said, because he spent P370 billion for the campaign and it was afraid Villar would try to recoup his expenses if he becomes president.

The INC also didn't support Gibo Teodoro because he was identified with President Ubaldo whom everybody loves to hate.

* * *

As I said in my column which came out Wednesday, Erap would not have any reason to feel bad even if the INC voted for Noynoy instead of him.

For those who missed Wednesday's On Target (which should have come out Tuesday), Erap owes his freedom to the Iglesia ni Cristo.

President Ubaldo granted Erap absolute pardon a few days after he was convicted of plunder on account of INC's support for him.

The INC's support was relayed to Interior Secretary Ronnie Puno (who passed it on to the Big Boss, GMA).

* * *

Many readers were asking why On Target came out on Wednesday instead of Tuesday, its scheduled day (the other days being Thursday and Saturday).

My columns had to give way to more important late-breaking news (to Metro Manila) about the May 10 elections.

To the reader who phoned to ask, thank you.

* * *

The Aksyon party list (Ahente Mandanas) has been assured of one seat in the House of Representatives, but it may win more seats along the counting of votes for the party list category is not yet over.

Aksyon's program is to reinvent the national budget allocation for Mindanao, the country's second biggest island, from 18 percent to at least 25 percent.

Mindanao constitutes 23 percent to the country's gross domestic product, yet it receives only a 18 percent allocation from the government in Imperial Manila.

Oil companies seek dismissal of suit

By Jeannette I. Andrade

OIL INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES INC. (formerly Caltex Philippines Inc.), Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. yesterday sought the dismissal of a suit filed against them, alleging the plaintiffs' lack of interest in pursuing the petition for declaratory relief filed in a Manila court.

The lawyers for the so-called "Big 3" oil companies asked Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26 Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. to junk the petition lodged by the Social Justice Society (SJS) and lawyer Wilfredo Caguioa against them after the petitioners failed to submit the required pre-trial brief as well as to attend pre-trial conference.

Atty. Edwin Lacierda, counsel of the oil representatives and their lawyer, counsels for the three companies also cited the failure of transport groups Bayan Manila and the Pinagkaisang Tinipon ni Operation Baliuag-wide (Pitmow) to appear and file their pre-trial brief as part of its intervention in the petition.

All three lawyers cited "the lack of interest to prosecute the instant case."

In response, Pampilo issued a two-page order directing the plaintiffs to submit a comment on the defendants' motion to dismiss, giving them 10 days to file their opposition.

Reached for comment, Caguioa said the petition was due for its first time in full to appear before the court because he was sick.

He added that he was not able to take care of the pre-trial brief as well as the case because he had to concentrate on his campaign. Caguioa was for senate for 1st Manila.

The issue on oil price manipulation was first brought to the court in March 2008, where the SJS filed a petition for declaratory relief with Petron, Shell and Chevron as respondents accused of monopoly, cartelization, and predatory pricing.

PROCLAMATION IN TAGUIG
Outgoing Taguig mayor and now congressman-elect Freddie R. Tiaga (front row, center) is proclaimed winner of the 2nd district congressional race by the Board of Canvassers (BOC) led by vice Felipe Sudang (fifth from left). BOC secretary Melinda Pablo (third from left) and Taguig Chief Prosecutor Arsimendes Manahan (front row, fourth from right). Also proclaimed winners were incumbent Vice Mayor George Elias (fourth from left), first district representative-elect Amel Cerafica (front row, third from right), and winning councilors belonging to Tiaga's ticket. Alabang Times ng Taguig

Warrants out for Tan kin

By John H. Aurelio

A QUEZON CITY court has issued warrants of arrest for backstreet abortionist Marlene Tenorio-Sia and members of his family in connection with recent illegal birth delivery, police said.

Judge Evelyn Rabaya-Tria of Regional Trial Court Branch 94 also issued a hold departure against Tenorio-Sia, his wife Aleta and children Hayette and Marlette Sia.

The charges of illegal detention, trafficking and child abuse were based on a complaint by Alice Bonanita, a former housemaid of the family.

Illegal detention and trafficking are nonbailable offenses. A bail of P60,000 for each of the accused was set by the court for child abuse cases.

The prosecutor called for the issuance of a hold departure order, saying the accused are "very influential and prominent people" who have access to both domestic and international transportation.

Defense lawyers opposed the move, citing a pending motion to hold in abeyance the issuance of arrest warrants because of a pending motion for reconsideration in the Department of Justice.

METROBRIEFS

Pedicab driver nabbed after attacking nurse

A 24-YEAR-OLD pedicab driver was arrested late Thursday night after he allegedly grabbed a nurse and tried to attack her with a knife outside the emergency room of a hospital in Manila. Jean Imperial, of Dagohoy Street in Old Balara, Quezon City, was subdued after he was mauled by bystanders outside the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Hospital along Dalupan Street in Tondo. Imperial was turned over to the custody of the Manila Police District General Assignment Section (MPD-GAS) after he was identified by witnesses and victims at the hospital as the one allegedly attacked 24-year-old Pamela Mae Tambuyan, a student nurse, MPD-GAS head Chief Insp. Marvin Reyes said. An incident happened at around 9:45 p.m. Thursday, right outside the emergency room gate of the hospital. Tambuyan was standing outside the gate when Imperial suddenly approached her, and allegedly slashed her before attempting to pull out a fan knife in what appeared to be an attempt to stab her. Alert security guard Manny Juane noticed the commotion and acted quickly to intervene. Imperial, however, managed to escape after he allegedly dropped the cap—presumed the suspect. Other security guards pacified the crowd and immediately brought to the wounded pedicab driver to the emergency room for treatment. The guards recovered ammunition from the suspect's belt bag and promptly turned him over to the MPD-GAS. Reyes said he was recovered a half-empty bottle of cough syrup from the suspect at the MPD-GAS office. Charges remains under police custody pending the filing of charges of attempted murder, malicious mischief, possession of a deadly weapon, illegal possession of firearms, and violation of the Omnibus Election Code against him in the City Prosecutor's Office.

Jeannette I. Andrade

1 killed, another hurt in QC road mishap

A WATER company employee was instantly killed, while another man was seriously injured when they were hit by a speeding truck while working on a pipe improvement project early yesterday morning along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, police said Saturday. Posing at the Traffic Enforcement Unit of Quezon City Police District confirmed the fatality is Anthonio Jacinto, 29, of Sta. Cruz, Manila. Wounded in the incident was Edgardo Palencia, 33, of Dalia Compound, Culiat, Quezon City. Both victims were employees of Maynilad, a water concession in the. Reports said Jacinto and Palencia were undertaking repair work at the intersection of Quezon Highway and Tandang Sora Avenue in Barangay Sangandaan at around 5 a.m. yesterday when an Isuzu dump truck suddenly hit them. Police identified the truck driver as Elander de los Santos, 28, of Angat, Bulacan. The dump truck came from Antipolo City and was headed towards the direction of Balintawak when the incident happened. Palencia was immediately rushed to the Lung Center Hospital and was later transferred to Philippine Orthopedic Center).

Nancy C. Carvajal and Mike Frialdo

Digging expedition yields vintage bomb

A BROKEN 60-centimeter accidentally detonated into a cottage bomb in a school Thursday afternoon in Barangay Road de Leon, Bocaue, Bulacan at the Lolibao Elementary School grounds at around 5 p.m. along Nabulibid Street in Bocaue, when the unearthed projectile's shell exploded after it collapse. He immediately reported the discovery to the Manila Police District (MPD) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (EOD) led by Senior Inspector Lorenzo Sustiza Jr. for assistance. Operatives of the MPD Explosive and Ordnance Division (EOD) immediately responded to the call and retrieved the bomb. They later identified the explosive as a 155 mm vintage shell that still contained active ingredients and could still explode. The MPD-EOD men took the bomb for safekeeping and further investigation.

Jeannette I. Andrade and Paolo Lucero

'My name is Ruben and I am from Holland'

TRIPOLI—THE 8-YEAR-OLD Dutch boy who was the only survivor of a plane crash that killed 103 people said he is in a lot of pain but keen to go home, in his first statements published on Friday.

Ruben van Assouw could remember nothing of Wednesday's disaster and was not yet aware that his parents and 11-year-old brother had died in the accident, the Dutch newspaper Telegraaf reported.

"My name is Ruben and I am from Holland," Telegraaf reporter on a telephone conversation with the sole survivor of the Afriqiyah Airways crash at Tripoli airport.

"I am fine, but my legs hurt a lot," the boy told a reporter from the newspaper on the mobile phone at one of his doctors.

"I was in a hospital," Ruben told the newspaper. "There are men and women here. I don't know how I got here, I don't know anything more," he said. "I really want to go home."

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's eldest son, Seif al-Islam, visited the boy on Thursday at the hospital in the capital where he is recovering after surgery on his smashed legs, the official Jana news agency reported.

Islam had "talked about the health of the Dutchboy and about the assistance he is receiving from doctors at Al-Khadra hospital," the Libyan news agency reported.

The boy and his family had been returning from a safari holiday in South Africa.

He has only been identified by the Dutch diarrgn ministry as Ruben van Assouw. Fully by Dutch media as Ruben van Assouw.

He groaned an aunt and uncle with a smile when they arrived at his Tripoli bedside on Thursday and would be transported to the Netherlands as soon as his medical condition allowed, a doctor said.

AN IMAGE grab of Dutch child Ruben van Assouw, the only survivor from the Libyan plane crash, resting in a hospital in Tripoli. AFP

Dillonais said 70 Dutch citizens, including Ruben's family, were among the 103 people killed when the Afriqiyah Airways Airbus A330 from Johannesburg disintegrated on landing in Wednesday.

The Dutch newspaper Reformatie Dagblad said the boy was probably from Tilburg in the southern Netherlands and that he had been on safari in South Africa with his mother Trudy, 41, father Hedrik, 48, and brother Yoan, 11.

Three Libyan-owned jetliners were missing from landing in Tripoli on Wednesday after a more than seven-hour journey across Africa when it crashed into a sandy field at the edge of the runway, killing 103 people.

Ruben was found still strapped to his seat by rescuers who assisted the boy was breathing, said a Libyan safety official, Col. Belcod al-Abaja. The bodies of three crash victims were nearby.

The child was unconscious and unresponsive, bleeding from wounds on his legs, al-Abaja said. As rescuers moved him, he groaned in pain.

Knowledge said the child was discovered about a kilometer from the tail section of the Airbus A330-200, indicating he may have been sitting in the front of the aircraft when it broke into pieces.

Aside from the tail, little was left of the Afriqiyah Airways plane. A trail of wreckage more than 120 meters long lay scattered on Thursday in the sand.

AFP/AP

Supporters of ex-leader seize offices in Kyrgyzstan

MOSCOW—OPPONENTS OF THE INTERIM government in Kyrgyzstan stormed administration buildings in three southern cities on Thursday, forcibly installed a new governor and seized an airport apparently in an attempt to take power in the south a month after the country's president was ousted in an uprising.

After seizing the buildings, the protesters issued a statement demanding the return to power of the former president, Kurmanbek Bakiyev.

It was the worst nationwide violence in Kyrgyzstan since the bloody uprising that led to the overthrow of Bakiyev last month. He is in exile in Belarus, but he retains support in his homeland in the south of the country, where discontent has been rising.

Kyrgyzstan, a landlocked mountainous nation in the heart of Central Asia, hosts a military base important to the US war effort in Afghanistan. Russia, which considers Kyrgyzstan within its sphere of influence, has opposed the base.

A committee that said it represented Bakiyev's supporters issued a statement on Thursday in which it claimed to have wide support in the south. It newly appointed governors in the cities of Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken, the three regional capitals of southern Kyrgyzstan, which is separated from the capital and the north of the country by a rugged mountain chain. In Batken, the protesters eventually left the building.

AYT

Pope assails abortion, gay marriage

FATIMA, PORTUGAL—POPE BENEDICT XVI used a famous Portuguese shrine to the Virgin Mary on Thursday as a venue to denounce abortion and gay marriage, just days before Portugal is expected to join five European countries that have legalized same-sex weddings.

In a speech here to Catholic social service groups, Benedict called for initiatives aimed at preserving "the family based on the indissoluble marriage between a man and a woman, help to respond to some of today's most insidious and dangerous threats to the common good."

He also said he expressed his "deep appreciation for all those social and pastoral initiatives aimed at combating the various moral and cultural mechanisms which lead to abortion, and are openly committed to defend life and to promote the reconciliation and healing of those harmed by the tragedy of abortion."

The audience in a chapel at the shrine gave the Pope a standing ovation.

The Pope's remarks came on the third day of a four-day visit aimed at shoring up Christians battled in increasingly secular Europe, although it has been somewhat eclipsed by the sexual-abuse scandal confronting the Vatican in recent weeks. Benedict also has used the visit to signal a more forceful tone in confronting the abuse, which he has called a "sin inside the Church."

AYT

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The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Gocco

Thai general who joined protesters shot

At 71-kilometer mark on Expressway, Gen. Khattiya Sawasdipol is helped by aides in Bangkok after he was shot in the head on May 13. AP

By Thomas Fuller and Seth Mydans

BANGKOK—A RENEGADE MAJOR GENERAL who allied himself with the protesters who have paralyzed Bangkok for weeks was shot in the head and critically wounded here Thursday as the military began sealing off a barricaded encampment of antigovernment protesters.

The general, Khattiya Sawasdipol, 48, had become a symbol of the lawlessness and impunity that have torn Thailand apart as the protests have pitted the nation's poor against its establishment.

He was shot during an interview with a reporter for The New York Times about 7 p.m., one hour after the military announced the start of a blockade and cut off electricity and water to a tent city of thousands of protesters.

The reporter, who was over him assessing and facing the general, heard a loud bang similar to a firecracker.

The general fell to the ground, his eyes wide open, and protesters took his apparently lifeless body to a hospital, screaming the nickname "Seh Siang hoi have shot! Seh Siang has been shot!"

He was later reported to be on life support. Within hours, protesters were clashing with security forces in Lumpini Park in Bangkok.

The general resisted both the government, by joining the so-called red-shirt movement, and many protest leaders, for his refusal to back down. The government accused him of a role in the violence that has taken more than two dozen lives since the protests began in mid-March. In the interview on Thursday, he described other leaders of the protesters as cowardly "idiots."

Nonetheless, the general had assumed control of security for the protesters and he claimed the loyalty of a small but intense group of protesters.

Although the government called him the main impediment to peace and suspended him without pay, he was allowed to move freely.

"I chose!" he cried in English, with a laugh, when asked in an interview on Sunday about the absence of bombings that have set Bangkok on edge, and about the mysterious black-shirted killers who escalated the violence on April 10 that killed 26 soldiers and civilians. "No one over me."

The military, which has held back from clearing out the protesters for fear of bloodshed, now appeared ready to crush them. AFP

Indonesia foils plot to kill president

YUDHOYONO

JAKARTA—INDONESIAN POLICE said on Friday they had foiled a plot by militants to kill President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in an attack on the presidential palace during independence day celebration on Aug. 17.

"They planned to target Indonesia's president (Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono), state officials and foreign guests attending the ceremony," national police chief Bambang Hendarso Danuri told a press conference.

He said that the planned attack was inspired by one carried out by the Islamic militants who killed 166 people in Mumbai, India, in November 2008.

The Indonesia militants "planned to launch a series of assassinations to Jews and Judaism with their specific target foreigners, especially Americans, and the Indonesian president," he said.

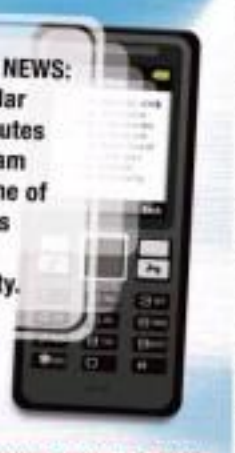
They also planned to lay siege to hotels, "targeting tahun had occurred in Mumbai," he said.

The police chief was speaking at a briefing on raids carried out by counterterrorist police after the discovery of a terrorist training facility in Aceh, in northern Sumatra island, in February.

Danuri said 30 terror suspects have been arrested and killed in the raids over the past three months.

On March 9, police killed the alleged leader of the Aceh group, Dulmatin, who was considered one of the masterminds of the 2002 night club bombings in Bali that killed 202 people, mostly Western tourists. AFP

INQUIRER mobile news



INQUIRER BREAKING NEWS: Two separate vehicular accidents, a few minutes apart, cause traffic jam along southbound lane of C-5 in Pasig City, says Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

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3 Pakistanis arrested in NYC bomb probe

WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS—THREE Pakistani men who authorities say supplied funds to Times Square car bomb suspect Faisal Shahzad, who was arrested on Thursday in a series of raids across the Northeast as the FBI followed the money trail in the failed attack.

Investigators said it was not yet clear whether the three men knew how the money they were going to be used.

The men—two seized in the Boston area, one in Maine—were arrested as federal and state police searched homes and businesses in an extensive series of raids centered in the Boston suburbs, on New York's Long Island and in New Jersey.

They were arrested on immigration violations—administrative, not criminal, charges. They were not charged with any terrorism-related crimes. Their names were not released.

The raids resulted from evidence gathered in the investigation into the Times Square bomb attempt two weeks ago. FBI spokesperson Gail Marcinkowski gave no sentences Thursday that there was "no known immediate threat to the public or any active plot against the United States."

In Washington, Sen. Carl Levin (Democrat) believes there is evidence that the men were providing Shahzad, a Pakistan-born US citizen, with money, but they have yet to determine whether the men knew the funds might have been intended for a terrorist act.

A top Massachusetts law enforcement official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still going on, said investigators are not sure whether the two Boston-area men were willing accomplices or simply moving funds, or in essence among people from the Middle East and General Mills who live in the US.

"These people might be completely innocent and not know what they were providing money for," the official cautioned, "but it's clear there's a connection."

Republican Sen. Susan Collins said there was "not a direct tie" between the men arrested in South Portland, Maine, and the Times Square car bomb suspect.

Authorities have been investigating whether Shahzad—who authorities say traveled only a few thousand dollars to buy the used sport-utility vehicle and the bomb components used in the attempted May 1 attack—was financed from overseas.

In Washington, a senior military official said Pakistani authorities had arrested a man claiming to be an accomplice of Shahzad. The official was unable to say what information the suspect may have provided. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters.

A federal law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity regarding the ongoing investigation, said money was passed to Shahzad through the informal transfer networks known as hawalas.

Muslim immigrants for years have used hawalas, which rely on wire transfers, couriers and overnight mail and are cheaper and quicker than banks, to send cash to their families overseas. But since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, authorities have worked to threaten the system, forcing it above ground to come and launder money. AP

Britain's coalition Cabinet begins battle of the budget

LONDON—PRIME MINISTER DAVID Cameron met with his coalition Cabinet for the first time on Thursday as the euphoria over the new partnership between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats gave way to a let's-get-down-to-business approach marked by a determination to attack Britain's huge budget deficit.

The agreement that has forged a Cabinet of 18 Conservatives and five Liberal Democrats will require members to keep old ideological differences and personal enmity impossible in what amounts to a historic experiment in government by concession and compromise—what Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, the Liberal Democrat leader, has called "a new kind of government" and "a new politics."

Cameron told the Cabinet that the coalition faced "a huge job" to get Britain's economy moving again, and he asked individual ministers to consider departmental budgets for potential savings.

Cameron has also taken several diplomatic steps to ease concern in Britain and Europe about the country's future with Europe.

He declined praise on Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, seeking her advice on conditions in a phone call on Tuesday. On Wednesday he spoke with President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, inviting him to London for the anniversary of Charles de Gaulle's 1940 address to occupied France on BBC radio. His coalition has been tempered by the more pro-European Liberal Democratic Party, but it remains to be seen how it will withstand the inevitable tests posed by an engagement with Europe.

The Cabinet endorsed a Conservative proposal to impose, for the first year at least, a 5-percent cut in all ministers' salaries—a preliminary action by the new government, which intends to move more rapidly than the previous Labour government to cut the country's staggering $240-billion budget deficit.

The cut will reduce Cameron's salary as prime minister and a number of Parliament, to about $210,000, slightly more than half the salary of an American president.

The new government's goal is to save about $9 billion this year, which is less than 1 percent of the $1 trillion budget. But the real business of removing the economy will involve much deeper cuts.

George Osborne, the chancellor of the exchequer, told the Cabinet meeting that reducing the deficit "overshadows everything" in the coalition's plans. Osborne had warned during the election that if Britain didn't reduce overspending, it risked following Greece by having to seek an international bailout. PDT

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Editor Raul G. Manuela ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

San Miguel in talks to sell Pure Foods

Offers up to 51% stake to local, foreign groups

By Doris C. Dumlao

DIVERSIFYING SAN MIGUEL CORP. IS IN TALKS with a handful of local and foreign investors to sell a substantial or even a majority stake in profitable food unit San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc. this year, but US-based Hormel Foods Corp. is no longer among those in the running.

In a briefing after SMPFC's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday, company officials reiterated that the food unit could grow its net profit by 10-15 percent this year from the record-high P2.7 billion net income posted in 2009.

"I think what's important is the sustainability of what we're doing and because the strategies we implemented are permanent in nature, we expect that the positive results will be sustained in the coming years," SMPFC president Francisco Silvo III said.

Revenues were seen rising 10 percent to P80 billion this year.

In the first quarter, San Miguel's food unit increased its net profit to P871 million from P743 million in the same period last year on the back of P18.2 billion in revenues, which were up 2 percent.

Silvo said San Miguel was looking at either selling a substantial minority or possibly a majority stake in the company to a new investor.

"The preference is really more strategic than just financial investment. In the process of selecting the partner, they are looking at the party who can really help the company achieve its growth objectives," Silvo said.

Asked why San Miguel was willing to give up majority control in the food unit when it was doing very well, Silvo said, "It will increase the value. The investor may be willing to pay a premium if there's control."

(SAN MIGUEL, B2)

Stocks sustain rally
LOCAL STOCKS SUSTAINED A post-election upswing for the fourth straight session to close at a new 29-month high, shrugging off an overnight retreat by US stocks. The main index Philippine

(STOCKS, B4)

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ADVENTURE GLS*	205,000	39,000	16,387	12,269	10,254	8,143	7,139	6,472	5,986
ADVENTURE GLS SPORT*	205,000	111,000	17,166	13,031	10,983	8,843	7,817	7,206	6,777
ADVENTURE SUPER SPORT**	265,000	159,000	20,643	15,606	13,143	10,643	9,326	8,689	8,203

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Innovation

Ayala net profit rose slightly to P2.2B in Q1

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA CORP'S FIRST-QUARTER net profit was flat compared with a year ago as slower consolidation from its core telecommunications and banking businesses was offset by the strong recovery in property and other units.

In a stock exchange report yesterday, Ayala said its net profit reached P2.1 billion for the first three months compared with P2.2 billion in the same period last year.

Equity earnings down to units rose 6 percent, driven by higher contributions from its real estate unit Ayala Land Inc. and AC Capital.

"We are pleased with the trend in earnings performance of the business units, particularly in comparison to the past three quarters. The continued and steady improvement reflects the sustained recovery in the domestic market. We remain confident this trend will continue to improve moving forward in step with the economy and the improving pace of domestic consumption," Ayala Chairman and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said.

Ayala Land's equity earnings accounted 31 percent more to P1.2 billion driven by the sustained recovery in the real estate sector. The property arm attained a record quarterly net income of P1.2 billion during the first three months. 32 percent higher than in the first quarter of 2007 as it achieved record sales and bookings from its residential project launches, its leasing portfolio likewise performed steadily on higher year-on-year rent for its malls and business process outsourcing (BPO) office leasable area.

On the other hand, Ayala's other core business units—Globe Telecom and Bank of the Philippine Islands—reported lower net earnings year-on-year.

Globe's net income declined 26 percent in the first quarter to P2.9 billion mainly due to the unit performance of the mobile business. BPI saw its net income decline 5 percent as non-recurring revenues boosted last year's comparative income level.

All companies under Ayala's AC Capital unit contributed to the turnaround. Water concessionaire Manila Water Co., electronics manufacturing arm Integrated Microelectronics and Ayala automotive posted substantial growth year-on-year while AC Holdings and BPO holding firm Level-up Investments Ltd. recorded lower losses during the period. Combined equity earnings from companies under AC Capital improved to P228 million in the first quarter, a turnaround from a P136-million loss a year ago.

Equity earnings from Mitsubishi Motors grew 70 percent as its net income rose 25 percent to P435 million while a recovery in the global electronics exports sector allowed IM to bulk up net earnings of P1.2 million, reversing the loss in the same period last year.

Ayala's unconsolidated dividends collected in 9-quarters growth in cash sales, reflecting the country's vibrant domestic consumption.

BPO unit LiveIT gave its share of investee company revenues or P67 million in the first quarter, up 48 percent year on year, primarily as a result of the Philippine-Hewlett merger and Integreon's acquisition of Distinct and Dital Research.

Strong recovery in property cited

Atlas Mining posts profit in 1st quarter

By Ros T. Dinkaruba

ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING AND DEvelopment Corp. yesterday reported that it ended the first quarter with a net income of P464 million, a turnaround from a loss of P393 million in the same period last year.

The publicly listed mining firm attributed its improved performance to higher production reported by its majority-owned subsidiary Carmen Copper Corp.

Total revenues generated for the quarter amounted to P2.2 billion, Atlas said. Net income from operations rose at P482 million.

Ore shipments of copper concentrate were made during the quarter totaling 34,500 dry metric tons.

During the first quarter, the Carmen copper mine processed 2.3 million tons of ore. Its production rate is expected to exceed 30,000 tons a day during the third quarter of this year.

Atlas also announced that Carmen Copper completed its seventh shipment of copper concentrate on May 13, consisting of 9,250 metric tons dry-based to the Jinfeng copper smelter in China.

The copper concentrate are estimated to contain 28.76-percent copper, 2.93 grams of gold per ton and 29.08 grams of silver per ton. The shipment had an estimated value of $11.2 million.

Since the commencement of commercial operations in September 2006, Carmen Copper has completed 26 shipments of copper concentrate totaling 98,829 dry metric tons, Atlas said. All shipments have been made to China.

Boracay Hotel Corp., the wholly-owned subsidiary of Atlas, reported a loss of P30 million due to the continued suspension of mining operations.

PSE to spin off regulatory unit

THE BOARD OF THE PHILIPpine Stock Exchange has approved the spin-off of its market regulation unit from regular business operations and the formation of a holding entity to ease conflicts of interest issues.

In a briefing yesterday, top PSE officials also announced that the exchange was poised to speed up the drafting of a regulatory framework for the planned integration of Southeast Asian exchanges in line with plans to facilitate cross-border trading by 2012.

Ret. Gen. Jose Calida, PSE chair, said the spin-off would allow the exchange to focus on its core business and product offerings, taking advantage of a more genial investor confidence arising from the successful holding of the country's first automated elections. This is as soon to resume its higher trading volumes and improved confidence among companies to list on the exchange, in turn boosting the profit prospects of the PSE.

Calida announced that in the third quarter of 2010, the PSE's net income is targeted at P52 million to P62.51 million from a year ago on higher listing-related income and trading volumes.

Calida said the PSE's newly elected board has approved the draft articles of incorporation of an independent market regulation body, paving the way for its spin-off into a corporate company.

"This will remove some of the perceived conflicts of interest so the board level and more importantly give market participants like the Securities and Exchange Commission the confidence to ride through this independent regulatory company to police its own ranks in a professional manner," Calida said.

The new unit will have an outside-president-versus-member board, of which the majority will be occupied by independent directors and only two will be reserved for trading participants, which should be from brokerage houses of good standing, he said.

PSE chief operating officer Atty. Ma. Isabel Clara Dy said the SEC was looking at letting the proposed regulatory unit apply for a self-regulatory organization (SRO) status independent of the PSEx, which will effectively empower the unit to draft its own rules and policies for trading participants.

The PSE has also approved and would soon solicit public feedback on a framework for listing REITs, an innovative instrument that allows investors to buy into a company that holds finished property projects with good operating records, instead of investing in the property developer itself.

But Soussy noted that the PSE would like to see the final implementing rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission before finalizing its own rules on the listing of these REITs.

(Doris C. Dumlao)

Pacifica joins Subic power bidding

By Amy R. Borres

PACIFICA INC. YESTERDAY SAID its board of directors has allowed the company to enter into a consortium agreement with R.E. Builders Inc. on a joint bid for the Subic coal-fired power plant.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Pacifica said its board gave its approval during a special meeting last Thursday.

According to Pacifica, the agreement was made for the purpose of submitting the pre-qualification requirements and proposal for the lease, operation and maintenance of the 116-megawatt Subic plant facility.

The company added that it has designated Warren H. Kapoor as the duly authorized representative to represent the company in the proposed consortium agreement with R.E Builders.

Last month, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority announced that it has put up for auction the 30-year lease for the diesel power plant even as the contract among the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, state-owned power firm National Power Corp. and state-run National Power Corp.-owned San Miguel Energy Corp. expired last year.

Kapoor is also the head of the diesel power plant through a build-operate-transfer agreement with Subic Power. It was commissioned in February 1998.

The ground lease agreement between the SBMA and Kapoor and the BOT agreement between Kapoor and Taiwan-built expired in February 2008 and Kapoor turned over the 56-megawatt power plant to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority last month.

The SBMA is overseeing the operations of the diesel power plant.

Aside from having control over the diesel facility, the prospective winning bidder will have the right over a 10-hectare property, which is currently occupied as a cogeneration power plant.

Stocks sustain rally

From page B1

Stock Exchange index added 1.73 points or 0.08 percent to close at 3,709.62, its highest since hitting 3,781.46 on Jan. 16, 2008.

Trading was initially gloomy as investors were cautious following the week reading in Wall Street. However, a late-session surge in buying elevated the index to overcome the day's early losses, and up with modest gains and on a more upside close high.

Despite the overnight downturn in Wall Street, a favorable assessment was expressed following Thursday's breakout from the key resistance at 3,700.

The index was supported by the gains of the financial, industrial and holding firm counters, which offset the weakness in the property, services and mining-oil sectors.

Value turnover rose within the session, with total volume of P15.5 billion. There were 65 advancers as against 49 decliners and 62 unchanged stocks.

Among the day's gainers were PLDT, Metrobank, First Gen Corp., Energy Development Corp., SM Prime Holdings, Petron, SM Investments and Ped Holdings.

On the other hand, Manila Water, Ayala Land, GMA-7, Holdings, PCI Bank and Ayala Corp. traded in the red.

Overnight, the US Dow Jones industrial average declined 133.98 points or 1.06 percent while the Nasdaq and S&P indices were likewise off 1.26 percent and 1.22 percent, respectively.

(Doris C. Dumlao)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of May 30, 2008

CURRENCIES

May 30, 2008 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Euro Equivalent
United States	Dollar	43.3000	1.0000	0.6317
Japan	100 Yen	40.5870	0.9373	0.5919
United Kingdom	Pound	85.4900	1.9746	1.2473
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.5600	0.1284	0.0811
Switzerland	Franc	37.7200	0.8711	0.5503
Canada	Dollar	42.2500	0.9758	0.6163
Singapore	Dollar	30.5000	0.7043	0.4448
Australia	Dollar	41.1400	0.9501	0.6002
Malaysia	Ringgit	13.5600	0.3132	0.1978
New Zealand	Dollar	33.2500	0.7679	0.4850
Taiwan	Dollar	1.4000	0.0323	0.0204
Korea	Won	0.0420	0.0010	0.0006
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0040	0.0001	0.0000
Thailand	Baht	1.3400	0.0309	0.0195
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.5400	0.2665	0.1683
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	11.7900	0.2722	0.1719
Qatar	Riyal	11.8900	0.2746	0.1734
Kuwait	Dinar	153.0000	3.5335	2.2317
Bahrain	Dinar	114.8400	2.6520	1.6747
Oman	Rial	112.4600	2.5971	1.6402
Egypt	Pound	7.6900	0.1776	0.1121
Jordan	Dinar	61.0700	1.4102	0.8904
Lebanon	Pound	0.0287	0.0007	0.0004
Bangladesh	Taka	0.6300	0.0145	0.0092
India	Rupee	1.0900	0.0252	0.0159
Mauritius	Rupee	1.4000	0.0323	0.0204
Sri Lanka	Rupee	0.4000	0.0092	0.0058
Canada	Dollar	42.2500	0.9758	0.6163
Sweden	Krona	6.9400	0.1603	0.1012
Norway	Krone	7.9100	0.1827	0.1153

Investors urged to put up more power plants in Mindanao

Energy chief pushes clean coal technology

By Aris R. Barro

ENERGY SECRETARY JOSE C. Buaida has stressed the need for more investments in power generation in Mindanao to prevent a repeat of the power crisis being felt on the island.

Buaida made the appeal recently in his presentation to members of the Joint European and American Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines.

The energy chief had stressed the need to diversify the energy sources in Mindanao to ensure energy security over the medium and long term.

"Over reliance on a single sector power source isn't good in the long-term planning process. We need to strike a balance and look to other sources of energy such as coal. There are new clean coal technologies which have been developed and this is an avenue which the country should look into," Buaida explained.

He added that as part of the country's medium-and long-term solutions to the power issue, investors should be given incentives to remain a market conducive to prospective energy projects in Mindanao.

In particular, Buaida earlier said he was bullish for the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) to be implemented in Mindanao as soon as possible as this would provide investors with an assured market for the electricity they generate to generate through their proposed projects.

Since the start of the year, the whole country has been experiencing rotating brownouts since frequently due to unplanned outages, simultaneous maintenance work on power plants that necessitated shutdowns, and the El Niño dry spell, which drastically cut the generating capacities of hydroelectric power plants.

Mindanao has been the worst hit due to its high reliance on hydroelectric power facilities. The country's second biggest island sources about half of its electricity requirements from hydro resources.

Meanwhile, Buaida said that more government-owned power assets would be privatized this year to reach the full privatization level to government-unrelated to implement open access, wherein huge electricity consumers could choose their own suppliers.

The government has yet to achieve the mandated 70-percent privatization level for the independent power producer administrator (IPPA) contributor—the last piece-driven for the implementation of open access.

So far, the government has already privatized 68 percent of the government's committed capacities from IPPs.

JICA GRANT FOR AURORA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Acting National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) director general Augusto B. Santos (center), Sen. Edgardo J. Angara (left) and Japan International Cooperation Agency chief representative Mieko Matsuda celebrate after signing a grant agreement for the improvement of the Aurora Memorial Hospital (AMH) Project.

Bhutan seeks help of energy agency

SEEING THE PHILIPPINES AS A BENCHmark on power regulation, officials of the Bhutan Electricity Authority have recently sought the expertise of the local Energy Regulatory Commission in restructuring their electric power industry.

In particular, Bhutan officials wanted to learn how the ERC conducts its public hearings, public consultations and the rate-making process.

The Philippines is deemed to be one of the most advanced in terms of electric power industry restructuring and regulation among sub-developing countries, according to the ERC.

"The ERC's vision to become Asia's benchmark for excellence in power regulation is not farfetched. It is moving slowly but surely toward one of the supreme goals of Epira—that is open access and retail competition... riddle solving to its justices to protect the long-term interests of the electricity consumers," said ERC Chair Jurado G. Antonio.

Aside from Bhutan, energy regulatory authorities from five other countries have already visited the ERC. These were South Korea's Korea Electricity Commission (Kerc), Electricity Regulatory of Vietnam (Erav), Kenya's ERC, Tanzania's Energy and Water Utilities Authority (Ewura) and Thailand's own ERC.

The delegation from Bhutan was composed of the energy agency's chief commissioners and officiating chief executive officer.

The ERC and BEA have similarly undergone a restructuring of their respective electric industries in 2001, when both agencies were established by virtue of each country's laws, namely the Electrical Industry Reform Act for the ERC and the Electricity Act of Bhutan for BEA.

In the case of Bhutan, however, a state monopoly still existed in the electricity industry since its government owns and controls the supply of power. Thus, prices of electricity are still largely determined by the government and not driven by market forces.

According to the ERC, it provided a discussion on its rules of practice and procedure governing the hearings as well as on the newly adopted performance-based rate-setting (PBR) for the transmission and privately owned distribution utilities.

Amy R. Remo

Execs buck privatization of PNOC-EC

PNOC-EXPLORATION CORP. HAS again asked the interested government to resume the controversial privatization efforts, stressing that its sale without a public bidding was illegal and unreasonable to boot, a leaked legal brief.

Separate sources said that after the panel found of PNOC-EC unfair to approve the sale of its prized asset—the Camago-Malampaya oil and gas field that it jointly owns with Shell Exploration BV and Occidental—the Department of Finance announced that the state would instead be taken up by the Manila stock board.

The existing board refused to approve the sale of its 19-percent participating interest to PX's billion because "no public bidding was conducted."

"Simply because Shell and Chevron have the right to match or the right of first refusal or because the Privatization Committee authorized the sale, that does not exempt the transaction from public bidding," said a source, who described the deal as "illegal."

Due to the board's refusal to approve the sale, members of the existing board were allegedly now being removed and replaced by new ones who would be more compliant with the directive of the current administration, the sources claimed.

Sources added that the current board had declared that it "will not stand in the way of anyone, so we have no intention of bidding on it."

(From page B1)

San Miguel in talks to sell Pure Foods

It was earlier reported that Brunei was among those in talks with San Miguel for the purchase of a strategic investment in the food group. But there is said the DE company was no longer among those still in the discussions on with San Miguel.

He noted, however, that five or six local and foreign investors were still actively in talks with San Miguel over the food business. He added that the sale would likely happen within the year.

During the annual stockholders' meeting of its listed San Miguel on May 11, part of the agenda is to seek approval to sell or list the conglomerate's stake in core subsidiaries to below 51 percent.

The food unit, which has an estimated enterprise value of $1.6 billion, currently enjoys the biggest local market share in poultry (40 percent) and hotdog (60 percent). Its market share in the processed meat business is estimated at 20 percent. In the cereal food segment alone, the company has an estimated market share of 20 percent, making it the second-biggest player.

Prior to the sale of a substantial stake in its core business Alejo said the company would first consolidate all the food brands into M&W, as some intellectual property rights still belonged to its parent company. He expected this consolidation to be complete within the next three months.

Meanwhile, regional expansion is still seen as part of the company's long-term strategy.

The company's "noncore—poultry, hog, and flour—were the key profit drivers in 2009, having benefited from stable pricing, softening raw materials prices, improved efficiencies and effective management of costs. The dairy and piggery businesses also posted significant improvements in profitability.

PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORPORATION

Please be informed that the Corporation will hold its Annual Stockholders' Meeting on Friday, May 28, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Aguinaldo Hall, Telecoms Plaza Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

All stockholders are requested to update their information by calling Ms. Marilen Quevedo at telephone number (632) 815-8406.

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US jobless claims signal high unemployment rate

WASHINGTON—THE NUMBER of US workers filing for jobless benefits fell only slightly last week, suggesting the unemployment rate will remain elevated even as recovery in the labor market becomes entrenched.

Initial claims for state unemployment aid dipped 6,000 to 448,000 in the week to May 8, the Labor Department said on Thursday, maintaining the region's very modest downward trend even as other job market indicators show major improvement.

Labor market healing, but has long way to go, economists say

Economists said the puzzling stickiness in claims, which they had expected to dip to 440,000, underscored the challenges the labor market confronts as it heals from the severest beating it took during the worst recession to ease the 1930s.

"The labor market is clearly improving, but it has a long, long way to go before it get to any semblance of normalcy," said Joseph LaVorgna, chief US economist at Deutsche Bank Securities in New York.

US stocks slumped on the claims data, while prices for long-dated government bonds rallied. The US dollar rose to a one-week high against the euro.

In a second report, the department said import prices increased 0.9 percent last month due to higher petroleum costs after rising 0.6 percent in March. However, excluding the volatile petroleum category, prices were up only 0.3 percent, suggesting little inflationary pressure.

"In spite of higher commodity costs, prices for imported finished goods appear sluggish, suggesting firms' pricing power remains limited," said Anne Walsh, an economist at BNP Paribas in New York.

Although initial jobless claims are falling only slowly other measures of the labor market—including the government's closely watched monthly employment report—suggest job growth is gaining steam as businesses become more confident of the strength of the economic recovery.

Data released last Friday showed payrolls grew by 290,000 in April, the biggest gain in four years, but the unemployment rate declined to 9.9 percent from 9.7 percent in March.

The economy has grown for three straight quarters and while employment has risen for four months it is not quite enough to worry those in charge of economic policy that the slow improvement in claims, if continued, could signal slower job growth ahead.

Fifth straight weekly drop

Fifth straight weekly drop

Fifth straight weekly drop

Power plant workers nurture mangroves, nesting turtles

By Marvin Sirilo Lendio
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BATANGAS CITY—ENERGY producer First Gas Power Corp.'s power plant here is taking care of turtles that hatch at the beach area in its compound to take away people's misconception that incubation areas of First Gas Corp., from Gas' sister company.

Gabonia said that as Jan. 30, 37 sea turtles were released while 46 to 75 turtle eggs hatched.

Set free

The hatchlings were later released.

On Feb. 10, additional 90 hatchlings were set free.

Ignacio Panes, senior manager for environment and chemical services section of First Gas, said that sea turtles come back after 20 years from the day of their release, and he hoped that these creatures would really come back.

Eight men, management is taking care of turtle hatchlings at the beach area in the First Gas compound.

Panes said the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office had been helping the company since day one in taking care of the turtles.

Minimal human contact

Ramon Ramirez, First Gas vice president for area administration, said that to properly handle turtles, there should be minimal human contact.

"There should be less human intervention; let them hatch on their own, the role is to protect and guard them," Ramirez said.

HEADCOVER. Sea turtles pictured above, are being cared for by employees of First Gas Power Corp., sister company of the Lopez-led First Gen Corp.

THE COASTLINE behind the power facility in Batangas serves as breeding ground for sea turtles.

Mangroves unit

The management provides nurture where the eggs are found to dissuade people from upgrounding the nesting area.

Located in Barangay Ilo. Ilo. is here, power plant employees have also law nurturing mangroves as their contribution to the environment.

Banks' NPL ratio improves

With marked improvement in income levels, institutions report less defaults

By Michelle V. Remo

UNIVERSAL AND COMMERCIAL banks reported less loan defaults in March from that of a year ago, as income levels were said to improve during the period, following the economic slowdown of 2009.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said the non-performing loans ratio of universal and commercial banks settled at 3.3% percent in March, down from 3.56 percent in the same month last year.

NPL ratio, an indicator of a bank's viability, is the share of loans/ loans to total loans extended by a bank. Loans become non- if these remain unpaid at least a month after maturity.

The decline in the NPL ratio was a result of the drop in nonperforming loans and the decrease in the outstanding amount of loans extended by big banks.

"Thus [March] is the eighth consecutive month that the NPL ratio has been below 4 percent," the central bank said in a statement.

On a month-on-month basis, however, the latest NPL ratio was up from 3.1% percent.

The BSP has been mindful of helping limit the NPL ratio at or below 4 percent, which is the level seen before the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

Central bank officials said prudent regulations and initiatives by banks to improve certain standards helped bring back the NPL ratio to pre-Asian crisis levels.

The ratio peaked at 10 percent in early 2000.

The latest NPL ratio was a result of the P62.33 billion in bad debts as of March, and outstanding loans worth P1.83 trillion.

The amount of bad debts was 1-percent lower than the P63.18 billion seen in the same period last year. On the other hand, outstanding loans were 1.6-percent lower.

The BSP has urged banks to increase lending this year to help boost the economy.

But the regulator also wants banks to maintain prudent lending standards to ensure continued health of the banking sector.

Central bank officials said credit growth had helped the economy which narrowly averted a recession last year.

The banking sector is expecting a pickup in credit this year, as the economy improves, encouraging banks to lend more.

Jollibee profit grew 23% in Q1 on spending hike

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE FIRST JOLLIBEE FOODS Corp. posted a 23-percent profit growth in the first quarter even a year ago as retail sales expanded on the back of resilient domestic spending.

JFC said yesterday that consolidated net income attributable to equity holders of parent company rose to P6B-million from P562 million a year ago. This was fueled by an 8.1-percent year-on-year growth in system-wide retail sales...a measure of all sales to consumers from company-owned and franchised stores—to P41.6 billion.

Three-month net operating income grew by 16.8 percent to P816 million from a year ago, outpacing the rise in total sales. The acceleration growth was due to the increase in gross profit margin to 19.5 percent in the first quarter from 17.1 percent a year ago.

Foreign-exchange gains, lower net financing cost and lower effective income tax rate also boosted the growth in net income. The company's revenues on equity thus improved to 16.7 percent in the first quarter compared with 15.7 percent a year ago.

JFC operates the dominant fast-food service chain in the Philippines. As of end-March, it had 1,560 domestic stores, 692 of which are under the flagship Jollibee brand, 461 under Chinese fast-food chain Chowking, 207 under pizzeria Greenwich, 231 under Indonesian fast Jollibee, 24 under European-inspired deli Delifrance and 14 under Filipino eatery Mang Inasal.

For page B2

Execs buck privatization of PNOC-EC

From page B1

our positions."

"Nevertheless, but our submission to our replacements be misconstrued to an acceptance of its legality, we officers-in-charge of the PNOC-EC is effectively covered by the constitutional ban on presidential appointments effective from March 10 to the end of the incumbent board's term of June 30," the source had quoted other members of the board as saying.

Other officials added that the sale of the asset at this time could easily be dubbed as a midnight sale. They noted that the absence of a public bidding would fuel public suspicion regarding the motive behind the sale.

"It will certainly reduce the likelihood that this strategic energy asset will be sold at its fair price. The sale of the 28-percent share in the Camago-Malampaya field, being the sale of substantially all the assets of PNOC EC, would render the company incapable of fulfilling its responsibilities under its oil service contracts and coal operating contracts in the long run and severely hamper its ability to participate in future oil exploration activities," a source stressed.

They also said that Shell and Chevron were drilling a new well in the contract area that could "well be another major discovery—a development that would benefit not only PNOC-EC but the government as well."

Amy R. Remo

Singapore, Philippines sign new air deal

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SIGNED a new deal that will increase the number of flights between the Philippines and Singapore, possibly tap a hotel to locate and tourism in both countries.

In an interview, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) Executive Director Carmelo Arcilla said members of the Philippine air panel, along with their Singaporean counterparts, signed the deal that would increase the number of flights between the two countries by over 60 percent.

Negotiations were concluded earlier this week.

The new deal adds 2,447 seats a week between Manila and Singapore, on top of the previous 11,200 seats per week allowed. Allocations to Clark, meanwhile, were doubled to 20,000 seats a week from 10,000 before.

Arcilla said the preference of adding more seats to Clark than any other point in the country is still part of the government's plan to replace Manila's aging airport system with Clark of the former military air base in Pampanga, turning it into the country's premiere international gateway.

For points outside of Manila and Clark, allocations were also doubled to 10,000 seats a week. Today, only the Cebu and Davao airports have flights to Singapore.

"If there's steady growth on routes from the Philippines to Singapore," according to Arcilla, who heads the Philippine air panel, "it's between seven and 14 percent every year."

There have been a growing number of airlines serving the country from other points in the Philippines, Arcilla noted.

For instance, Indonesian-owned budget airline Cebu Pacific flies to Singapore from Cebu City and Clark. Philippine Airlines, meanwhile, flies also flies to Davao City.

The new agreement with Singapore, along with deals made with other countries, is part of the administration's strategy to increase tourist arrivals to the country to record numbers in 2019.

Since the start of the year, the Philippines as joined—inside up of representatives from the departments of transportation and communications, trade and industry and tourism—has signed similar air deals with Qatar and South Korea.

Investors, businessmen vow to push Clark dev't

By Charlene Cayabyab
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—INVESTORS have promised President Mmajunjal Arroyo to further develop business in Clark/airport that had been put up under her administration to make the Clark and Subic Freeports a world class logistics hub.

The President was pleased to hear the commitment of the business community during a recent forum on the prospects of the Subic-Clark corridor whose many (less 200 local government officials and representatives of business groups attended.

"I'm very happy because this investment is one of our most important achievements, the development of Subic-Clark as competitive service sector," Mrs Arroyo told reporters.

Private participants promised to Mrs Arroyo a "declaration of cooperation" to support the development of the Clark Freeport and the Subic Bay Freeport into a premier hub.

Gerardo Wright, Bangalan Development International president and chief executive officer, declared the President as an "winning hero" who has lifted the Philippine economy through the establishment of economic freeports.

Wright, who represented the private sector at the forum, said development has limit the NPL ratio at or below 4 percent, which is the level seen before the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

Central bank officials said prudent regulations and initiatives by banks to improve certain standards helped bring back the NPL ratio to pre-Asian crisis levels.

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The banking sector is expecting a pickup in credit this year, as the economy improves, encouraging banks to lend more.

Banks started to ease lending standards in Q1

BANKS STARTED TO RELAX LENDING standards in the first quarter, as the institutions expressed their willingness to extend more credit, taking advantage of improving economic conditions.

In announcing the results of its latest Bank Loan Officers Survey, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said most of the banks had already eased credit standards, which were tightened during the height of the global economic crisis last year.

With projections of improving income levels this year, banks are more interesting more borrowers, the BSP said.

The easier credit requirements apply to both corporate and individual borrowers, the central bank added.

"There may have been an increase in competition among commercial and universal banks in trying for a small pool of creditworthy corporate loan accounts, as top corporations are more resilient during a downturn," the BSP said.

"Banks' credit standards on loans to households have eased significantly, with the gains in the first quarter, with the easing more pronounced for credit card loans followed by personal salary loans and housing loans," it added.

The banking regulator said that the relaxed credit standards would help fulfill expectations of a healthy rise of credit this year to support the economic growth target of the government.

The economy, measured in terms of gross domestic product, is expected to grow by an accelerated pace of up to 7.6 percent this year from last year's 6.9 percent.

Banks are currently awash in cash, and so they are most likely to engage in more credit activities this year, central bank officials said.

Industry players expect bank lending to grow by at least another 10 percent this year, citing improved economic conditions that have encouraged lenders to extend credit.

Latest data from the central bank showed that outstanding loans from universal and commercial banks amounted to P2.09 trillion as of end-March...up 3 percent from P1.98 trillion as of the same month last year.

Officials said the growth in lending could accelerate further in the months ahead with the banks' decision to relax credit standards.

By the end of 2009, outstanding loans by universal and commercial banks amounted to P2.15 trillion, growing by 16 percent year-on-year.

Monetary officials said the growth in bank lending last year partly helped shield the Philippines from a recession. The country also managed to defy contractions, unlike other economies in the region.

Michelle V. Remo

BUSINESS

Next gov't urged to focus on improving tax take

Otto Energy seeks partners to help in drilling Cebu wells

By Jerry R. Barca

AUSTRALIAN FIRM OTTO ENERGY Ltd. is looking for partners to help it drill wells in the Argao prospect in Cebu, which is said to contain commercial quantities of oil.

Otto plans to drill at least one exploration well by December this year, according to its commitments under the exploration program.

The company is expected to spend some $30 million on its planned drilling.

According to the company, the Argao prospect was a mature and drill-ready prospect.

Based on the company's studies, a portion of the Argao prospect may even have eight levels, each containing hydrocarbons 40 and 300 million barrels of oil.

The Argao prospect is in the southern part of Service Contract (SC) 51, and is just one of the 11 prospective oil and gas sites the company earlier identified.

Otto Energy currently holds an 80 percent stake in the license, while the balance is shared among Alcorn Gold Resources Corp., Transasia Oil and Petroenergy Resources Corp.

SC51 currently covers some 330,000 hectares over the East Visayan basin. The area consists of the northern and southern parts, which are separated by 60 kilometers.

The large Argao and Bulacy prospects are located in the south block, which has about nine additional leads recently defined from modern 2D and 3D seismic data.

Otto earlier did preparatory site surveys of the proposed Argao 1 and Bulacy 1 drilling locations in the East Visayan Basin.

The Bulacy 1 prospect was also said to have about 100 million barrels of recoverable oil.

Balanced budget must be prioritized, says DOF

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE wants the next administration to focus on the goal of improving revenue administration by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs so that the government can balance the budget over the next few years.

Improved administration refers to the enhancement and rationalization of tax and duty collections that will result to an increase in revenue.

The DOF wants to attached agencies, the BIR, to generate additional revenue from improved tax administration amounting to 0.5 percent of gross domestic product—or about P68 billion—this year, Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said.

On the other hand, the BOC has been directed to collect additional revenues to the tune of 0.3 percent of GDP, or around P39 billion.

Finance officials said the government can also improve revenue collection by imposing new or higher taxes and duties.

In 2009, the BIR collected P798.3 billion. This was up from the P778.6 billion collected the previous year.

In the same period, the BOC collected P273.5 billion, up year-on-year from P260.7 billion.

The BIR and the BOC are told to guarantee more revenue this year than what they collected last year.

The BIR has been tasked to collect P823.6 billion this year, while the BOC has been told to generate P333.1 billion.

"The goal of the current administration is to attain fiscal consolidation [to wipe out the budget deficit]. We hope the next administration adopts the same target by implementing measures both to improve revenue collection and to rationalize expenditures," Beltran told reporters.

In the case of the BIR, proposed measures to improve tax administration includes further tightening of tax audits and easier process for corporate entities and individuals to pay taxes.

Another suggestion is to run after tax evaders by hiring more lawyers and legal staff, and to plug leaks arising from corruption.

As far as the BOC is concerned, tax administration reforms being proposed include easier process of duty payments by further enhancing the automated process, by speeding up trade procedures, and also by tightening rules against corruption.

The BIR and the BOC account for the biggest share, or about 80 percent, of the government's revenues.

Since the Asian financial crisis, the government has been registering budget deficit year after year as revenue always fell short of expenses.

The government earlier sought to balance the budget by 2008, but finance officials said the global economic turmoil forced the government to pump-prime the economy, thereby delivering the target of a new deficit.

The current administration seeks to balance the budget by 2016 at the latest. The DOF said the next administration must be encouraged to adopt the same target.

Makati office, residential vacancy rates fell in 1st quarter

OFFICE AND RESIDENTIAL VACANCY rates in the Makati Central Business District fell in the first quarter of the year against that of the last quarter of 2009 due to improved sentiment.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, citing results of a survey by Colliers International Research, said that the office vacancy rate in the country's major business area is estimated to have settled at 6.1 percent in the first quarter—more than a percentage point lower than the 7.3 percent recorded in the last three months of 2009.

On the other hand, vacancy rate for residential properties, mainly condominium units, is estimated to have fallen to 7.1 percent in the first quarter from 7.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009.

The BSP said vacancy rates could continue to fall in the months ahead given sustained demand both from corporate and household buyers.

"According to Colliers International, office vacancy rates could fall through the first half of 2010 given expanding demand, particularly from the BPO (business process outsourcing) industry amid a scarce modern supply in the pipeline," the central bank said.

"The central bank said the decline in vacancy rate in the first quarter was partly due to demand that surged after tropical storm "Ondoy" hit Metro Manila in September last year. The calamity led to massive flooding in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, pushing some households to buy new property.

"Temporary displacement of residents from flood-hit parts of Metro Manila also provided boost to the housing market," the BSP said.

As a consequence, property prices rose, the BSP said.

"Given the projected increase in demand from the BPO industry, landlords are expected to reduce incentives in the near two quarters as they regain pricing power.

It said that monthly rent for a three-bedroom condominium unit in Makati CBD declined by 1.7 percent to P542 per square meter from that of the previous quarter.

Vacancy rate is one of the indicators being monitored by the central bank to determine trends in demand. A decline in the vacancy rate may signal pickup in demand, or decline in supply, reflecting possible improvement in income levels. —Michelle V. Rosca

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing
PROPERTY

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12 things buyers should look for in a farm estate

Farm estates are envisioned to evolve into organic farming havens

By Tessa R. Salazar

YOU'D KNOW THAT A trend in real estate has become serious once you see big developers dip their fingers into it, and a wide spectrum of buyers have invested in it.

One conspicuous trend now is the farm estate, the sale and development of which are gradually picking up in the Philippines, but only do retirees or overseas Filipinos comprise the growing market, even individuals from agribusiness, young executives and members of the armed forces have been investing in farm estates.

Pablito M. Villegas, owner of the Villegas Organic and Hobby Farm, revealed to Inquirer Property that farm estates are basically the response to the growing demand for health and wellness as a therapy for stressful living and pollution in the cities.

Villegas is a small-scale farm estate developer with two three-hectare farm lots subdivided into modules of 1,000 to 1,000-square-meter residential farm lots. He helped develop the Sustainable Agriculture and Entrepreneurship Learning Center (SAGE) where technology is entered, penetrated, tested and transferred to organic farming communities.

"As are experts in organic and sustainable agriculture, if enrolled farm estates to evolve into organic farming havens where the use of toxic and disease-causing chemical fertilizers and pesticides and its harmful effects to the health of humans and the ecosystem will slowly be reduced due to the increasing demand for organic and health promoting foods," Villegas enthused.

The reality of many existing farm estates, however, is still quite a long way away from Villegas' vision. He pointed to a root problem: Moneyed developers know more about farming and building construction than second agricultural principles.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1284 Series of 2010

Building unique lifestyle for Pinoy families

By Charles L. Bolaos

TWENTY YEARS AGO delivering mini-leisure developments would be considered a very bold investment today. But for Lindeo Pacific Corp. being the first to tap into this type of community development has its perks.

"Indeed, it's not easy to be first in this segment but by the time Peninsula de Punta Fuego, followed by Terranas de Punta Fuego and Amani de Fortuna took shape, we believe we did something remarkable to those high-end marketers outside metro. Actual sales of developments become models for other developers to follow suit," says Lindeo Pacific president and CEO Alfred Kent Burgos III.

As a result, Lindeo Pacific became shrewd in concept and execution. "When the competition started developing Peninsula de Punta Fuego in 2005, it took at least 10 years for others to begin creating a similar concept," Kent Burgos says.

By this time, the company has moved onto newer and more exciting projects that included Playa Calatagan, Playa Luisa and Playa Ilocano, developments that integrated the leisure tourism-estate component.

"As we were also able to expand our market that reaches more Filipinos and tourists alike, we kept our competitors on their toes," he says.

Diversifying

But Lindeo Pacific is not resting on its laurels as Green Residences like that the company continues to diversify serving growth in leisure, culture as well as homegrown communities.

"Aside from our high-end, private and exclusive properties, Lindeo Pacific is now also building homegrown communities as high-end residential communities in locations throughout the country such as those in San Fernando, Pampanga; Balayan, Batangas; Carmelotan, Nueva Ecija; Urdaneta, Pangasinan; San Pablo, Laguna; and even Zamboanga City," Kent Burgos enumerates.

He adds that Lindeo Pacific has also started developing urban communities or high-end residential communities in highly urbanized markets like the Fifteen Forbes Residences, a reservation-only condominium development in Bonifacio Global City.

"As an established brand, we have created a reputation of being on the pioneering side. However, we are also known to never resting on quality, always seeking for the highest standard in any of the things that we put in our projects," Kent Burgos says.

He says that to best accomplished in the company's philosophy of "Life At Your Leisure" first means giving the owners full access to a world-class open space for rest and relaxation, spaces to spend quality time with family and share great memories.

At the moment, Burgos informs that Lindeo Pacific has a coastal setup on finishing the projects it has started during the company's massive expansion program between 2006 and 2008.

"Last year was also a period of consolidation for us. We decided to do this in order to gear up for growth that we expect to reap this year and 2011," Burgos says.

Kent Burgos noted that this mood seemed to be small, brighter than 'now' as the country was spared from the brunt of the global financial crisis as well as recovered from the devastating typhoons and Ampil and investor sentiment.

"Interestingly, the devastating effects of typhoons 'Ondoy' and 'Pepeng' on many property developments have also jolted many developers to consider an eco-friendly approach. We are glad that we have been practicing this for the past 20 years and our residents could not assure that we will continue to be ahead of the current government regulations and in-vogue designs mandated," he assures.

JOINING HANDS: Pts don't stop us just pioneering, we also lead the way in any of the projects that we develop.

GRASS RESIDENCES

Green living at the heart of city

CLUBHOUSE with its multipurpose function rooms makes a perfect venue for special occasions.

ENJOYING NATURE'S BEAUTY IS AN urban setting may seem like a far-fetched dream, but in the exciting new project from SM Development Corp., one can truly enjoy green living in the heart of the city.

Grass Residences is poised to provide an oasis of green amid the metropolis. Located in the dynamic North Edsa area in Quezon City, it is one address right across a bridgeway that combines comfort and convenience of urban living with the beauty and serenity of suburban life.

Unparalleled accessibility

Situated right beside SM City one of the world's biggest malls, Grass Residences offers unparalleled accessibility. Shopping, dining and entertainment options abound with the malls just mere steps away, while schools, medical institutions and churches are also in conveniently near. The prime location can be reached by most forms of public transportation, including the MRT.

To fulfill the promise of providing an escape from the hustle and bustle of city living, an impressive 75 percent of Grass Residences will be devoted to creating an oasis of blue and green for its residents. This sprawling space will be devoted to such nature-evoking elements as landscaped courtyards and gardens, as well as nature features and amenities. Indeed, what urban dweller would not be soothed by the sight of lush trees, verdant grass and refreshing blue waters welcoming him/her every day?

Country club feel

Grass Residences certainly promises that country club feel as it marvelously encompasses three green elements with other amenities, bringing you in your morning jog or feeling a pleasant afternoon sit-back at trails and paths that pass through the many parklets. The two 25-meter lap pools and Olympic-sized swimming pool is perfect for fitness buffs or those who just want to cool off. But you can also level off to the well-equipped gym. The kids also have their own pools with covered cabanas, where they can swim to their heart's content.

Privacy and gatekeeper can be held to the penthouse, lines and security access to provide wide, open spaces for rest and relaxation, spaces to spend quality time with family and share great memories.

One, while the clubhouse with its multipurpose function rooms is the perfect venue for important occasions. Sports enthusiasts need not go out to enjoy their sports as there are facilities and courts within the complex. To top it all off, Wi-Fi access is available in all common areas, perfect for those who need instant Internet connection to communicate with loved ones or just want to go Internet surfing.

Building facilities, services

Living in Grass Residences is further enhanced by superior building facilities and services. The grand lobby recalls those of 5-star hotels; lounge areas also ensure comfort for visiting guests. Overhead security are available for cost maintenance and housekeeping. A mini theater is available, as is a videoke function room for more entertainment options.

A 24-hour clinic is ready for any emergency, and the professional security service will also monitor the premises round the clock. To further strengthen security, the residents will be issued Vanguard card-type IDs with swipe card and thumbprint recognition. The building utilizes an automatic fire alarm sprinkler system and smoke detectors in all common areas and individual units. Another plus: ample parking spaces and a 24-hour maintenance team within the area.

Grass Residences offers renters unit layouts perfect for the evolving needs of workers, be they single employees wanting to make that first big investment, or those who want to start a family. Studio units are also available.

American Standard's line of water-saving products reduces household water consumption by up to 50%

Forecasters already predict the current water shortage to get worse in the coming months. Because of this people have become more conscious about water conservation.

American Standard, a leading global provider of bathroom fittings and fixtures, is encouraging homeowners and building developers to actively take part in conserving water by using products that reduce overall water usage.

"To help conserve water we have a line of products designed to reduce overall water usage in homes and buildings," said Lyra Bermonte, Country Manager of American Standard Philippines Limited.

Versuno Water Closet. While most water closets use about 6.0 Liter per flush, American Standard Versuno uses only 4.5 to 4.8 liters per flush.

"American Standard recognizes its immense responsibility to protect one of the world's most precious resources - water. We engineer bathroom products that use less water while providing excellent performance and cutting-edge designs that offer consumers choices for any lifestyle," Bermonte explained.

For many years American Standard has been coming up with products that reduce water usage. For example, almost all faucets produced by the company are equipped with a Ceramic Disc Cartridge that is guaranteed to not leak for life. The discs are made out of Alumina Oxide that is tested to operate over 1.5 million on/off cycles without failure, ensuring lifetime drip-free use. Furthermore, selected faucets utilize the new Click Technology. These faucets can automatically reduce water usage by up to 50% through the Water Saving Variable Control function.

American Standard offers water closets designed to reduce water usage. While most water closets use up to 6 liters of water per flush (LPF), American Standard has a line of water closets that use up only 5 to 4.5 LPF with its Dual Flush feature.

The company also has a selection of water closets with enclosed trap ways that conceal the sides of the toilet bowl, making it easier to clean as one has to wipe only the outer ceramic. This reduces water usage further while cleaning.

Through these various products American Standard hopes to significantly take part in water conservation especially during these times.

Complete Faucets and showers: Some American Standard faucets use the new Click Technology which reduces water usage by as much as 50% through the Water Saving Variable Control Function.

That beachside experience

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Jacho Arciaga
Associate

MY FIRST VISIT TO BORACAY HAPPENED more than 20 years ago. Back then, the island had no electricity and had only a sprinkling of beach resorts, most of which were made from indigenous material like nipa, bamboo and cogon. The white stretch of beach was as well defined because it was devoid of crowds and its shoreline had only a few homes dotted upon it. Truly a paradise island! It was even still classified as a nude beach then. Today, Boracay is favored with tourists enjoying its sun bonanza by the clear turquoise waters, fine white sand an assortment of beachfront restaurants and bars.

Its culture of entertainment has certainly transformed over 20 years. Back then we that first historic visit, the locals made "Nito" which they gave away or sold for a song. After sundowns, a bar was usually too far and too isolated to walk to from our beach resort, so we spent evenings chilling on a "banig" (mat) and entertained ourselves by singing away, chasing and hooking the constellations in the sky.

The culture of pleasure in Boracay has changed tremendously with loud concerts, parties and beachfront clubbing. It remains

TURN TO 3-4

PR Kitchens Inc.

DISCOVERY Sconce' tall, dramatic floor lamps hang above the bench, against the early evening sky.

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Manhattan Heights provides green living environment

Manhattan Heights, the new phase of Manhattan Garden City at the Araneta Center, provides urbanites a healthier and more relaxed environment.

Megaworld Corporation, the country's leading real estate developer, conceptualized a community that provides the "green" comforts of having nature as close to home. Manhattan Heights, Like jewels on the Araneta Center landscape, its four glass towers glimmer in hues of blue and white.

"With the right kind of environment and unparalleled convenience, living in the Metro can be a breeze. We have incorporated a lot of 'firsts' with Manhattan Heights because we want residents to have all the conveniences of city living," Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu said.

Links of convenience

The high-rise residential condominium enjoys direct access to the LRT-2 and MRT-3, being the first-ever transit-oriented development in the country to be connected to two train lines. This allows you not only to commute in comfort but also help save gas and prevent air pollution. Everything is a few steps away. Manhattan Heights offers residents a network of above-ground walkways that link you directly to the Gateway Mall. No more walking on sidewalks to get to the supermarket, the restaurant or the movie theaters. Retail shops at the ground level of the towers will cater to your every need.

Heavenly garden

Manhattan Heights' crowning glory can be found on top of each tower-the Sky Garden. It's an open park that mirrors the lush landscape and cool breeze found in communities outside Metro Manila. The palm trees that surround the area and the parapet above allow residents to hang out and breathe in the fresh air without worrying about being in direct sunlight. At night, the sky garden is even lovelier with a skylight feature that is as romantic as it is fascinating. Nature lovers can purchase the units at the four top-most levels of each tower to be as close to the sky garden as possible.

Fun and play the natural way

At the fourth level of Manhattan Heights is another garden that brings you all the amenities that you need to relax and rejuvenate your body and spirit. Kids will have a field day playing inside in the Daycare Center, the Play Area or in their very own pool. Adults can work their calories off in the Gym or in the jogging path. After which, they can relax with drinks in hand in the in-pool lounges or pamper themselves with a massage at the Spa area. Meeting rooms and pavilions are also excellent meeting places for work emergencies. All these are amidst lush green lawns and palm trees that allow you to stay close to nature.

To experience the green features of Manhattan Heights, please call Megaworld at 910-3333, visit the Manhattan Garden City showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall, or check out www.themanhattangardencity.com.

Manhattan Heights provides true green living options at the Araneta Center.

The skylights at the fourth level will surely make Manhattan Heights a unique, distinguishable address at Araneta Center every night.

To wine and dine with the greens by your side, head over to Gateway Mall's Deals.

Sky gardens at the top four floors of all Manhattan Heights towers bring green features high above the metro.

Creeping climate change

IF YOU HAVE BEEN ON THIS PLANET for at least half a century now, you must be nostalgic for the summers of your youth. It was now something hot as it is now. We flew kites in the monsoon rain. We played ball in the open field all afternoon. The grass remained green in this time of our own with just a little watering. Today the leaves of some sensitive plants outside my house turn black if we fail to water them for a day.

DBH or greenhouse gases seem to be the result of almost everything we do now. That is because almost every thing is an output of industrialization, urbanization and agriculture. Did you know that the transport in the United States accounts for 18 percent of gas emissions? Where else percent of methane released from a cow comes from only keeping and cultivation.

Carbon dioxide and methane are the main greenhouse gases. The former has accumulated in the atmosphere for the last 200 years, trapping heat that we release. Methane is produced here mainly by the rotting of garbage in dumpsites. It is 20 times more lethal than carbon dioxide.

At global scientific consensus, scientists say that we are dangerously marching toward the tipping point of irreversible climate change. Today the

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Arnaldo de Jesus

level of GHG trapped in the atmosphere is 372 parts per million (ppm). At 450 ppm we would be at the tipping point. That would mean 2 degree centigrade increase in global temperature. Ice caps would melt, and sea levels would rise by 4 to 7 meters. A seven-meter rise in water will submerge Manila.

That hopefully a far away. But we are experiencing at present stronger storms, massive flooding and severe droughts, signs of creeping climate change.

Respond to climate change

In February 2005, as chairman of the Senate committee on environment then Sen. Heherson Alvarez, now Secretary of the Climate Change Commission, joined us in Manila for the Asia Pacific Leaders Conference on Climate Change with the mayors of the United Nations.

In December 1997, 182 industrialized nations committed to reduce their GHG emissions by 5 percent from 1990 levels in Kyoto, Japan.

In December 2008, we all watched as they were supposed to finalize a binding agreement on climate change in Copenhagen.

In July 2009, President Arroyo signed Republic Act 9729, the Climate Change Act of 2009, for mainstreaming climate change into government policy formulations, establishing the framework strategy and program and creating the Climate Change Commission.

On April 23, 2010 we proposed framework strategy and program on Climate Change was submitted to President Arroyo through Sec. H. Alvarez by 6 secretary Roxy Santos, Mitigation & Development, Green Buildings, Food Production Systems, General Systems and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Framework for green buildings

The United Architects of the Philippines, the Philippine Society of Heating, Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers (Pesare), the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (Ashrae), Philippine Chapter, are members of the Proposed Framework for Green Buildings, have submitted through the Climate Change Commission to set sustainable building energy standards.

On May 3, 2010 the Senate launched a book titled 2010 Pesare Standard on Energy Efficient Buildings, in order to advance and institutionalize energy efficiency and conservation in the built environment.

In our country, buildings consume 72 percent of electricity and they are responsible for 33 percent of carbon dioxide emissions.

The full implementation of a new code for green buildings will help minimize GHG emissions by as much as 1.4 million tons a year, according to Sec. Heherson Alvarez.

For comments or inquiries, email arnaldodejesus@gmail.com

GREENING shows urban cores are rooftops and building walls reduce heat island effect, eliminates storm water runoff, and decreases danger of flooding as shown in the Plaza de Quezon Park.

Crown Asia toasts to the unveiling of Presidio's Bellini Tower

EMERGING IN THE HORIZON of Manila South's rapidly changing landscape is a haven where the frenzy of urban living comes to a halt. Irresistibly regal and the most luxurious voice of opportunity May soon be enjoyed. Bellini Tower, the third low-rise, mixed-use building that will complete Crown Asia's Presidio, recently held a grand blessing to mark its completion.

Located at the Lakefront City Central just off the Sucat exit of the South Super Highway, this graceful structure was previewed for the first time by unit owners and prospective clients through a walkthrough of the property. Visitors had the opportunity to view the new one-bedroom model unit as well as the several units that they have already purchased and will be calling their home soon.

Present during the event were Crown Asia CEO Mary Lee Saldana, Production head engineer Ind Millaires, Marketing head Mira Cuizon, the Crown Asia staff, business directors and sales personalities who all shared good news and much laughter with the Bellini Tower unit owners.

"This is a momentous event," Saldana said. "As we unveil the Bellini Tower, we are once again fulfilling a commitment we have made to provide high-quality homes with excellent investment returns to community and the standard of living in a level that every Filipino deserves to enjoy."

Larger community

"The completion of the Bellini Tower serves to bring us closer to the realization of the larger community of Presidio where we, dedic ate work, play, live and grow in a secure environment that offers all the modern conveniences that living in the midst of an urban scene provides but with the safety that a gated community affords," she added.

Since its launch in 2006, Presidio was home to 7 towers and a picturesque sprawling clubhouse located at the center of the community. Boasting its own residents' center and private, Bellini, a low density tower, is comprised of only 52 units.

For the launch, a unit shown was held to ensure luck, along with a wine toast to celebrate the milestone. Guests were also able to enjoy the new gym and lobby and the views from the podium.

BELLINI Tower

That beachside . . .

From page B1

ne of Sara beach in Bali, the surfer's beach and party place, where revelers went to wine and dine by the sand.

During our recent trip to Batangas we stayed at Discovery Shores where we always enjoy the rooms, the food and get spoiled silly by the exceptional service. Here too, we enjoyed on-the-sand entertainment as we sat on the beachfront beanbags and pillows, sipping our mojitos and margaritas, in the middle of the afternoon. However, as it is with a few other beachfront cons, sunrises and sunsets are unimaged during the peak months of the summer season in order to beach-combers who love to sit by the sand to wait for the colors of the day to change with the shifting sun.

There is something about sitting close to the ground that conveys a profound sense of freedom, and it's something that I've embraced in the beachfront. The balcony, lanai, backyard or garden can be transformed into your very own self-indulgent lounge in the city. Since I'm sated, here are a few ways to get that feeling going.

• Choose an area with generous space. Remember, it's a lounging space, so it's better one can recline in a non-lying position.

• Be imaginative with your floor mats. While the ideal is to use an outdoor rug weathered woven material, a duvet cover in an exotic fabric color can work just as well. Or even just several layers of heavy blankets. Oriental or middle eastern carpets or bamboo mats are another option, including those peddled to some sidewalk vendors used for window shades.

Surround yourself with oversized candles. The larger, the better. Small candles not only burn out quickly but also lack drama.

• Invest in floor lamps that can be moved around as needed. Candles are dramatic but lampshades give a homey feel. Table lamps work too but are less flexible since they always have to be on a table or pedestal, but they get kicked about. Change your bulbs according to the effect you want. In a well lit place, the lamps can have illumination only enough to light a bookshelf.

• Use beanbags and large floor pillows, an assembly of small throw pillows, or even sofa cushions. Use fabric and not leather or vinyl which will serve quite (but right) outdoors; a stack of pillows on great for lounging.

• Use some foot rest table. If you don't have any, use a stack of books with a solid panel (plywood), glass from another table, etc.) and cover with a fabric cloth.

• For a "stand-less" use a regular end table with its height, which is slightly lower than two feet, perfect to rest for bottles and glasses.

• Lastly, relax and enjoy the company. My only bad is "hanging" sleeping bed Boracay sun, and made pillows out of each other's limbs. Today, there are many options to cater to our lounge experience, with or without the turquoise water and the white sand.

12 things buyers should look . . .

From page B1

"At best, those top-time developers need to follow the basic characteristics of farm estates and must hire professional agricultural and/or agribusiness management consultants and technology experts."

Villegas, who started developing his own organic farm in 2004 with no funding assistance from his wife Dra. Susan Villegas of the UP College of Allied Medical Professions in the UP Manila Campus, said, "In many instances, big developers resort to high powered salesmanship and excessive media advertising and hyping in order to lure potential investors."

According to Villegas, after all the marketing hype, the basic elements that must be present in a farm estate are:

1. **Fertile and tillable soil;** preferably the clay loam (clomic) soil type.

2. **Available water** (river, irrigation areas, shallow or deep wells or rainwater ponds).

3. **Accessibility,** via a farm-to-market road.

4. **Available power** or electricity source.

5. **Peaceful, environment-conscious community.**

6. **Land that is legally titled,** and properly classified as because agricultural estate.

"Do not invest in untitled lands and in areas of multiple titling and agrarian disputes. In farm estate investment, we want to have peace of mind and indulge in community with nature and protecting the eco-systems," he explained.

7. **Sustainable.** Villegas said farm estate developers must also ensure easy and assured access to sustainable if not fully organic farming technologies and best practices in organic inputs and materials production as well as the whole gamut of the value chain from preproduction to production up to post-harvest, processing, handling and distribution and/or sales of produce.

8. **Invest in a farm estate that is close to cities.**

Villegas said that in the final analysis, what an investor in farm estate would really want is value for money through profitable and stress-free hobby farming, and where the profit motive may be considered not as much of a priority.

Man-made enhancements

Villegas explained that man-made enhancements may be necessary to achieve optimum farm scene conditions. There are technological innovations for improving the fertility of marginal lands (such as compost and organic fertilizer application, vermiculture and green manuring of nitrogen-rose plants). The need for further irrigation could be achieved by constructing water exploration and developing deep wells and ponds and water-source management (drip irrigation, "fertigation" using resins or compost tea) as used in the basic systems.

9. **He warned buyers to avoid buying areas where there their live typhoons a** your may pass directly over, or in areas that are prone to flooding.

10. **Location.** Metro Manila-based professionals can choose farm estates near the National Capital Region, such as Batangas, Rizal, Laguna, Alaib from three areas. Villegas recommends that one can take into consideration the neighboring northern provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva and Pangasinan, including Zambales and Nueva Ecija.

He stressed that proximity to Metro Manila and access to vital road infrastructure and urban markets are important considerations.

11. **Know if a particular area is prone to soil runoff.** Villegas said buyers can determine if an area is prone to flooding or erosion through rapid rural appraisals and key informant interviews at the LGUs (local government units) and with barangay officials, including leaders and local agri cultivators. They can also consult with the Department of Agriculture and with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management as well as DOST (Department of Science and Technology) and its attached agencies like Pag-Asa and other research networks, in challenging agro-meteorology and ecology.

12. **Farm estates should be in an area with a strong civil society—strong enough to suppress irresponsible land developers.**

Villegas said one such civil society is the Organic Producers and Trade Association, officially known as Opaca, and chair of the organic research and development and extension services. The group, he said, strongly advocates and lobbies, along with the numerous Convenors of the Task Organic Movement, for conducive and protective and pro-consumer organic agricultural policies that have resulted in the passage of the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (Republic Act 10068).

"On one occasion, we in the Opaca objected to one developer who was using organic agriculture as a strategy for selling their farm lots but in fact they were engaged in chemical or conventional agriculture and massive land clearing and leveling that resulted in soil and land erosion and environmental damage. At one point, the Opaca president almost filed a legal suit against the developer for misrepresentation and breach of contract," Villegas said.

RAISING A TOAST

Photo personality Marichu Antigua (far left) leads Ayala Land officials in raising a toast to Bridle Towers Alabang. The two-tower residential condominium by Ayala Land's affordable housing arm is located in upscale Ayala Alabang. Ayala Land president Tony Aquino (third from left) and Residential Buildings Group head Bobby Dy (fourth from left) and Lara Abad are joined at the event by Ayala officials Dec Cruz, Lee Montenegro, president, and Denise Lopez.

Green living ...

From page B1-2

ment, young couples who want space for a growing family, or empty-nesters who also need space for visiting relatives and friends.

Urban Residences is one of the many existing projects of DM Development Corp. across the nation. With its motto "Five star homes in prime locations now affordable," DM Development offers residential complexes that boast topnotch quality and service, in enviable locations and at very light payment terms.

At Urban Residences, one can truly be part of a unique condominium community that integrates outdoors and relaxation, truly an oasis of green at the heart of the city.

SCIENCE/HEALTH
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Abbott R&D center to develop nutritional products for region

By Theresa S. Santiago

SINGAPORE—INTERESTINGly Asians, according to Abbott Nutrition International, are so particular about the flavors and tastes of the food and drinks they consume, that such preferences trickle down even to nutritional products.

With this in mind, the US-based firm has decided to put up a nutrition research and development center here, as it strives to cater to the fickle and varying tastes, as well as to the ever-growing healthcare needs of the Asian market.

FROM LEFT: Robert Miller, Division VP for research and development and; Pradip Mukerji, director of Abbott's Nutrition Center

ABBOTT'S Asia-Pacific Research & Development Center for Nutrition Science in Singapore

Nutritional products

Pradip Mukerji, director of Abbott's newly opened center, told reporters here that this facility will "develop new nutritional products for the region, tailoring ingredients, flavors and packaging to the tastes and preferences of consumers throughout Asia."

On top of customizing Abbott's products for the Asia-Pacific region, scientists at the center will likewise conduct various nutritional researches that could benefit not just infants and children, but also other markets of all ages, Mukerji added.

With the vision to be a world leader in advancing nutrition science and providing quality life to people of all ages, the Abbott center will focus its research and innovation on the role of nutrition in the development of the brain, bones and immune system and metabolic functions of infants and children.

It will likewise conduct nutritional research for adults, which will include the management of diabetes and obesity, as well as the maintenance of muscle mass.

Abbott further said the center will design and conduct comprehensive clinical trials throughout Asia and the Pacific to obtain scientific information on the unmet healthcare needs in the region.

Tour of the facility

During the conference, reporters were given a tour of the facility to experience firsthand some of the comprehensive clinical trials (i.e., taste tests for their milk products) that they will be conducting in the region.

The milk flavors that were being tried included coffee, strawberry and vanilla.

"With the establishment of the research and development facility in Singapore, Abbott's scientists will further advance the company's understanding of the role of nutrition in human health and combine that knowledge with the science of taste and consumer preference to develop products (from which) people will both benefit from and enjoy," Mukerji explained.

Meanwhile, Robert Miller, Division VP for research and development of Abbott, assured the company's hopes in "future innovations moving faster to the marketplace with greater benefits to our consumers" with the establishment of the facility.

"We have a firm belief in our vision that says regional insights in both science healthcare nutrition are going to provide innovations," he added.

2nd pillar of global R&D center

The Abbott Asia-Pacific Nutrition Research and Development Center at Singapore's Biopolis Research Hub is the largest outside of the United States and can be considered as a second pillar of global research and development network.

It is also the first research and development facility to create science-based nutritional products for infants, children and adults. The center will likewise allow 40-hour to tap into the unique intellectual capital of Singapore and expand the innovations that the scientists will discover at the center to countries around the world.

Abbott's center currently has 44 scientists, mostly coming from Asia, who will use their diverse experience (from molecular biology to packaging engineering) to develop and make improvements on the company's products.

With this center, Abbott said it hopes to live up to its vision of providing innovative and quality healthcare for Asians of all ages.

RP's healthcare problems

By Tessa R. Salazar
Inside Line

THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT from the Philippine College of Physicians, issued during the March 15 Presidential Forum for health, which was organized by Inquirer Science/Health:

"Those involved in healthcare, by the nature of their respective advocations, make the country's healthcare problems even more daunting. Healthcare providers—the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, midwives...have diverse views and values, economics and situations, for which reasons many of them have transferred their respective advocations in the world or have opted to crowd themselves in the major cities of the Philippines. Disparities in the quality of care between government and private hospitals, as well as the fragmentation of care into subspecialties, with proliferation of technological advancements, have begun to emphasize the inequities that define private versus public, general versus specialized, rich versus poor.

"Unethical practices underscored by the inappropriate use of technology and the misuse and abuse of pharmaceutical products are borne out of unregulated relationships between the healthcare providers and the various business groups in healthcare. Healthcare delivery has evolved to mean state-of-the-art facilities and the belief that there is a pill for every ill, be that as it may, morbidity and mortality rates of infectious and cardiovascular diseases as well as cancer have not shown any decline. That the vendors have to protect their businesses and ensure their growth is no issue or concern to anyone. Otherwise, however, the partnership between healthcare vendors and the healthcare providers (users) are important parts; the patients and the public at large.

Dilutes the messages

"Big business' representation in the industry dilutes the messages on healthy lifestyles and create conflicts of values among the citizens. The images that appear contain lifestyles to be hip and pleasurable are far more compelling than messages that emphasize responsible behavior and accountability. Moreover, these industries have overwhelming influence not only in media but all the way up to the highest levels of government. It's the name of attracting big investments in the Philippine economy, developments that in the past the country's health is jeopardy. In addition, lobby groups as well as the church have proven to be highly effective in preventing the passage of laws that are counter to their values in spite of the fact that these laws stand to benefit the silent majority by the opinions that these laws provide.

"Last but not least, the Filipino citizen needs to assume bigger responsibility over his/her own health, to accept accountability for his/her behavior that puts him/her at risk of the development of diseases and/or injuries. As it is, the government has limited resources for health that are better and more cost-efficiently allocated to disease prevention rather than treatment. Given that health is a right of every citizen that the government must protect, a responsible and accountable citizen, supported by an effective health education that promotes to him or her the risks and benefits of the options that he or she can make, can go a long way in optimizing our health resources with greater impact."

Crab mentality

DISCOVER

Maxnie Santos Ballon

THE TERM "CRAB MENTALITY" IS OFten used to describe the behavior of crabs in a basket, pulling each other down from the walls in order to climb over the basket rim and escape from potentially harrowing consequences or even death.

In the May/June issue of the journal Behavioral Ecology, however, Massachusetts-based researchers from Harvard University, the company Pfizer and Tufts University described a different kind of crab mentality in which hermit crabs work together to find new homes.

Hermit crabs are easy to spot on the beach because they look like moving shells with claws. The 10-legged crabs use discarded shells to shield their soft underbellies from predators. Two pairs of legs are used to hold the shell's groove in place, while two more pairs of legs allow the crustaceans to move. The last pair of legs is used for feeding and defending itself.

Unfortunately for a hermit crab, it outgrows its shell and must find a new protective cone layer, inviting a future hunting precious can be alone or with a group. The team headed by Sarah Pratjar, a researcher at the New England Aquarium who started the project as a graduate student at Tufts University, referred to these methods as synchronous or asynchronous vacancy chains.

Vacancy chain

The term "vacancy chain" was originally used to describe a chain of events, by which a change in one person's life, such as through a promotion or move to a new apartment, could benefit several people as these resources are freed up. To better understand such of these techniques in the context of animal behavior, the team studied hermit crabs in South America, running 24-hour experiments at times to track the crabs' social interactions.

"Hermit crabs are really picky about real estate because they're constantly getting threats back into the housing market," said study first author Pratjar in a statement.

When these crustaceans encounter an unoccupied shell, they'll check it out for size and potential fit, but without necessarily giving up their current shell. Sometimes the hermit crabs will choose an asynchronous vacancy chain, in which one crab sees a larger, vacant shell and trades up quickly to better convincing an in-way Bea Benjamin and her colleagues found that hermit crabs prefer a more social moving party.

When hermit crabs encounter an empty shell, the researchers wrote in their study, they're more likely to hang out near the potential home and wait for more hermit crabs to come by. Over time, a small group of hermit crabs gather and they line up in order of size, which the largest next to the empty shell that will become its new home, and the smaller crabs right behind it waiting for a chance to move into the same as he vacated shells.

At some unspoken signal, the largest crab drops its current shell and moves into the vacant occupied shell. The next largest crab then grabs the newly vacant shell and moves in, and so on down the line.

In the paper, Pratjar and her colleagues observed that as many as 14 hermit crabs gained awesome shells in some of the synchronous vacancy chains they monitored. Six all-vacancy chains were marked by smooth transfers though. In some cases, the researchers noted that several hermit crabs would form around a single empty shell, causing hermit crabs of the same size to engage in a tug-of-war when their turn came.

Turn to move

In these cases, the team noted, the rest of the hermit crabs in line would wait for several hours, though occasionally switching from one queue to another until it was their turn to move.

So the next time you see a hermit crab next to an empty shell by the beach, leave both of them alone. The crab might be waiting for a new home to come along, and the resulting third-party might prove beneficial to more than just one tiny crab.

E-mail the author at maxnie@mnnic.com.

Post-election depression

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER. ALL THE candidates—winners and losers alike—will have to settle down and become with whatever cards fate deals them. The winners will be excited and jubilant of their victory; the losers will have to lick their wounds and get up on their feet.

A multimillion pastime of mine wasn't so fortunate this time and he called me up two days after the elections feeling some symptoms. Obviously, he felt depressed and felt like everything just caved in on him. He even feared of an imminent heart attack.

I assured him that based on the history of tests we performed on him just before the start of the campaign, his heart was in good shape, and I don't think he was at risk to have a heart attack. Except for his arthritis, admittedly, he is probably a fitter guy by wasn't able to campaign enough—he was healthy for his age. He just needed to lose a few extra pounds which I hope the rigors of the campaign enabled him to shed off.

What I'm more concerned now is his eminently negative reaction to his loss. It's normal for a losing politician to feel low at this point, but one should make a positive effort to get over it at the soonest possible time. Everyone has to go through the stages of emotional and mental recovery without exception.

Rejection, disbelief

Initially, some undergo a stage of rejection and disbelief over the outcome. Sadness and depression of varying degrees follow. Most then cope, they will mood their emotional support structures—their family and circle friends—to help them "process" their emotions and recovery whatever negative emotions they have to positive ones. Something like looking at the glass as half-full rather than half empty, or thinking of valuable lessons being learned. Others will never close well in the future. The sooner they accept their loss and be resigned to it, the better will be the emotional healing and recovery.

Acceptance or conceding defeat is not a sign of a loser. Losing in one election is not being vanquished for life. One may have lost one round but there are many rounds ahead, and the winner one cups crying over spilt milk. the better his chances of making good in the subsequent rounds ahead.

Harboring negative feelings and emotions such as feeling cheated, jealousy, envy, hatred, hostility or anger will only spell disaster for one's health. And that's the biggest irony of winning these negative emotions and feelings. They won't harm one's foes, they will inflict serious harm on the one who harbors them. Gradually, like termites, these negative emotions will erode oneself and could make one a physical and nervous wreck in the end. When that happens, one is truly vanquished.

Helping overcome setbacks

I think this is the problem of politicians in the Philippines. In developed countries, politicians and people of great consequence usually have psychologists and mental-conditioning coaches to help them overcome setbacks and challenges. Here, politicians would be so wary seeing a psychologist or psychiatrist, less to be used as an issue for election purposes. Truth be there is nothing wrong with it, and it should in fact be recommended for those who may find it difficult to accept their defeat in the election. Those experts can help them in "processing" their emotions so they can be well on the way to healing and recovery.

The "processing" may take several sessions, wherein the person usually opens up to the psychologist or psychiatrist whatever negative feelings and emotions he or she has. One should not suppress any of these emotions and should in fact let them release them, and hence yes, with tears. Only the positive emotions and feelings such as reconciliation, friendship, renewing cooperation and selfless service. One repeatedly visualizes in one's mind the colored scene one is in as he or she is able to successfully process one's emotions.

Medicines such as tranquilizers or anti-depressants may be prescribed by psychiatrist initially, but eventually, these may no longer be necessary. Well, perhaps, not until the next elections.

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Dear Noynoy...

Rock Ed has opened an avenue for Filipinos who want to send the Aquino scion a message

By Pluis Pastor

WHETHER THEY VOTED FOR HIM or not, every single Filipino expects a lot from the country's next president, Noynoy Aquino. We all have something we want to say to him—an idea, a suggestion, a message of encouragement, a plea for reassurance—but now all of us will have the chance to come face to face with him.

Rock Ed opened an avenue for Filipinos who want to send Noynoy a message by creating the Dear Noynoy page on Facebook. And clearly it was something people needed. In less than 24 hours, the page already had close to 11,000 members.

Rock Ed founder Ging Ibuley Cajeel said, "Acknowledging the advantage of quickly results and the wide margin, we figure the favor pitch of ideas was high. I wanted to catch that wave. I think it was proof of my belief that the Filipino voter has politically matured, that intelligent exchange can happen between opposing camps and that we could not just hoard an emotion but with our minds as well. I wanted to see for myself our capacity to discuss and disagree on ideas, not to get personal and celebrate democracy."

The stream of letters to Noynoy just wouldn't stop. People in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and different parts of the world clearly have a lot to say to the new president. "This wave of emotion is pervasive. I'm glad we have the chance to catch it. It's like photographs of people's thoughts the day after elections. Valuable insight. This is literally history written by many! History not subject to the bias of one historian."

Rock Ed hopes to be able to collect these letters and put them together in a book that they will present to Noynoy. Cajeel said, "We want a properly bound? Because we recommend it to be toilet reading for the President-Elect. Those are short notes and letters, even the writing is perfect for bathroom reading. We'll give him two copies—one for his bedside table, one for his restroom. What better way for a President to feel the pressure of things?"

This week, Super prints some messages from the Dear Noynoy page:

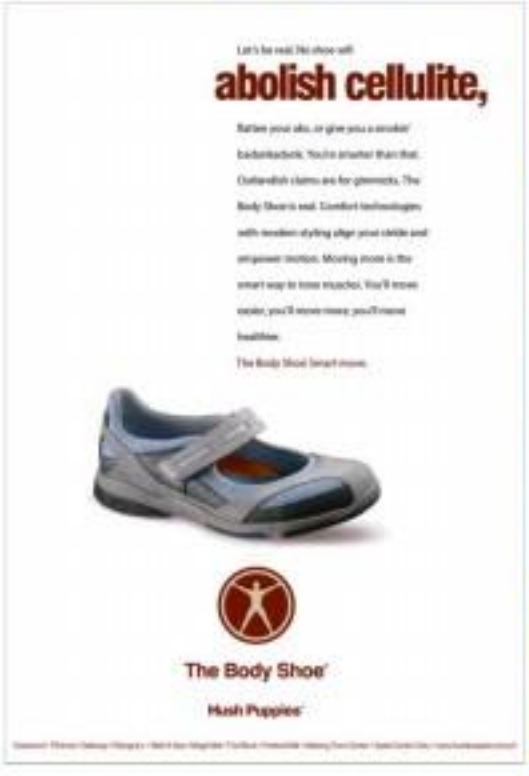
"Please make my future better." - JC Ingrid Carampacho

"I am not one of your supporters, but I do hope you lead well in the next six years. Your supporters do serve a lesson, and proactive president who could alter the flow of dirty politics in our country." - Jenny Regio

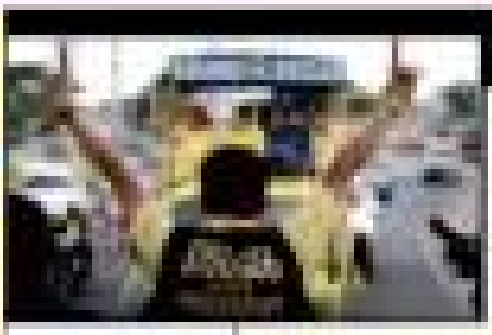
"Shake Gordon, Villanueva and Teodoro part of the cabinet? They can help you!

Prioritize education over infrastructures and national defense!" - Rhealeisa Rose Portible Pimentel

(MAIN NEWS) 11

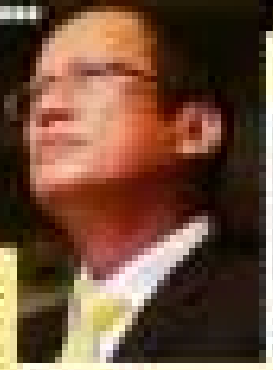


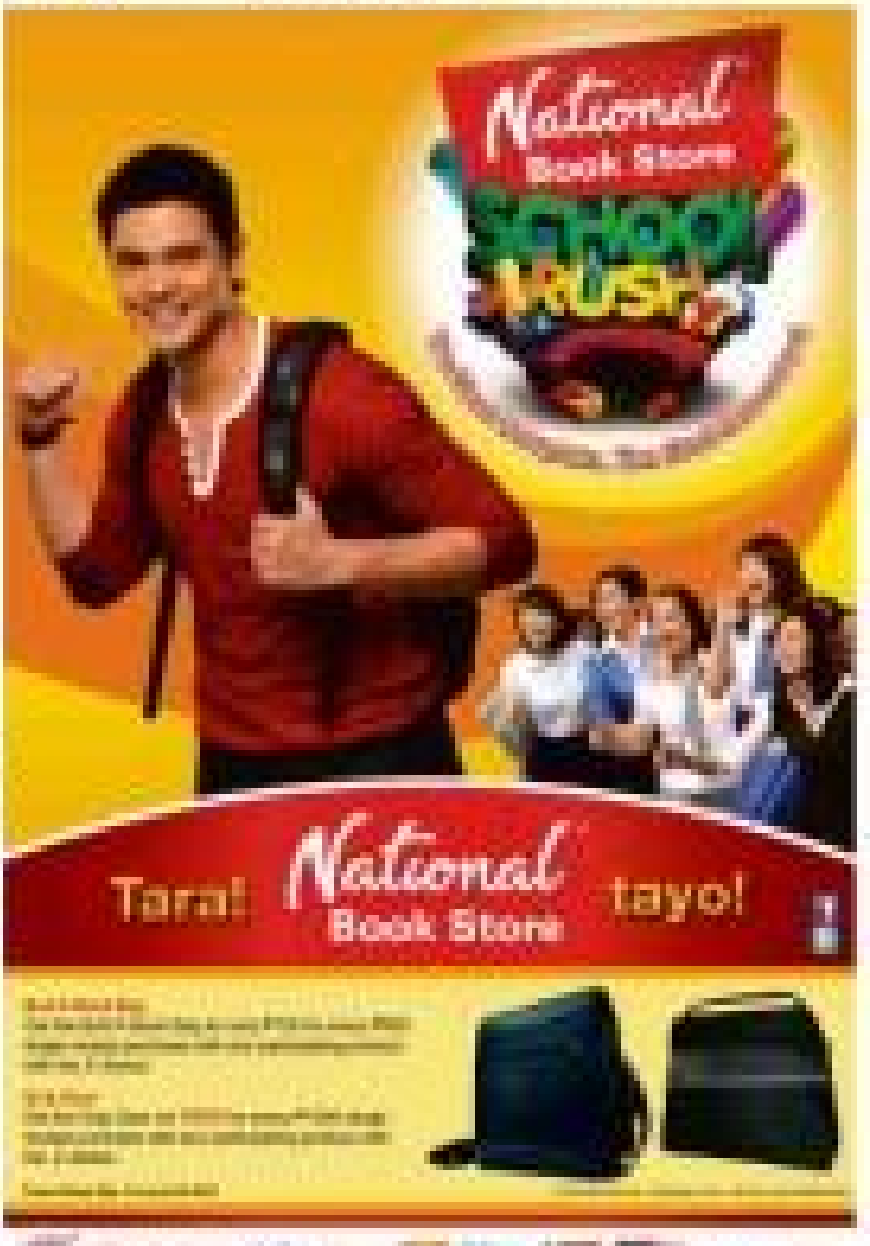
Political fandom in the time of Twitter



Dear

Noynoy...

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Read Up With A Cup of Coffee
Unwind at any specialty bookstores and/or coffee shops

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Shop in any toy store and/or get a Timezone party package

I Love Me
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Gadgets Galore
Get the latest from any electronics and/or computer store

Stay Fashion Forward
Go a shopping spree at specialty stores and/or department stores

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Enjoy a bargain-hunting adventure

Supermarket Super Saver
Go grocery shopping

Get Fit & Fab
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Home is Where My Heart Is
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super LIFESTYLE

PCOS wins the election!

The @PCOSmachine is arguably the best election-related Twitter account, diffusing political tension while helping broaden the democratic gains of the elections

By Tobin Tseng
Contributor

THE 2013 ELECTION WAS TRULY HISTORICAL, TECHNOlogically speaking. Social network sites (Facebook & Twitter were abuzz with constant updates related to the electoral race, from complaints about long queues, spurs voters release presidential bets started to fuse their feeling in the vast early-on and various emotions ranging from appalled (denim-clad on action seats heading to the nearest fire) to exiled (verbalized outing on action star-saved Governor para.

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPAK — BY JOEL ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY NIN JUNIOR

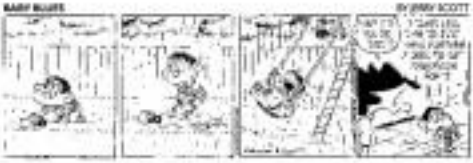
DICK TRACY

LOKOMOKOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANLILIO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



TUKOOK — BY HANA COLL

BEH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

KISO MACHINE — BY HANS ABRERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

TAU BORN TODAY You are objective and completely unpretentious. Your down-to-earth attitude makes you highly trustworthy. People like you because they perceive you as being practical and real. You also have a strong, ordinary attitude that is not at all pretentious or pompous. It is important to do what you love best. You have a unique ability to make others believe that you are significant or something. Bad romantic prospects: Gemini.

BORDER of Who Indeed, newscaster/reporter Jun Cornelio; actor Anna Marie Mangubat; actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're very frank and honest today. You don't like communicating with others with pat well-honed words but instead, assertive and persuasive! (Of course, that's only if you're totally right!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Listen to your loving-healing inner voice. You're very enthusiastic about work and exercise. You might discover something you want to buy but your finances is not a friendly weather.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll learn to trust your instincts, and it's encouraged by Jury Mercy! This makes you highly sensitive to something. Bad romantic prospects: Aries.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Work alone or behind the scenes today, because your research abilities are excellent. If you're looking for someone or someone to ask assistance, yourself/husband.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Discussions with groups, especially someone within a group, with the family and energetic for the best. Bad romantic prospects: Aquarius.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Some aspect of your private life will suddenly be made public today. People will learn how strongly you feel about something. You're exposed!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Do something different today. Change your routine. You want to learn something new, and you're open to ideas and ways that you haven't thought of before.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be discerning about investments and property. Advantageous, with real investment matters with the professionals. People around you or some events. (Libra.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A person or experience is going to upset you. Possibly in-law. Relax. (Courage! We're supporting you!) People need to learn their say, and there say what they mean!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) This is a productive day at work. Tackle any job, however you will do it with enthusiasm. Physical work, in particular, will suit you to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Will What a fine day! This is also a time to. Whatever, never fail! Enjoy sports, fine arts, close business and playful times with children. (Make love in private.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Communications with female relatives, especially mothers, might be evidence or fertility today. Avoid too much time. Make sure you listen carefully to others. People feel very intensely about what they want to say today. (Compassion is important.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Ron Lewis

2		1
6	2 9 3 5	7
9 3		4 2
	9	
1 5		3 6
	6 4	
8	9 7	6
3		4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

24/7 SUPER RADAR

By Jaime Cuenca-Duro and Katherine Magsanoc

THE ELECTIONS HAVE JUST ENDED AND FOR some, a good laugh may be in order. Lawrence Olivier Awardee 2001 for Best Entertainment and the longest running one-man comedy show, "Defending the Caveman," by Rob Becker, plays in the Makati audiovaxe tonight and tomorrow, May 15-16 at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza. The play takes on the differences between men and women. It stars Joel Trinidad and is directed by Michael Williams and Cathy Santos-Dity. Ticket are priced at P1,000, P500 and P300. Proceeds from the last two shows will benefit ally cancer survivors of the Cornwell Community. E-mail thecavemdefensetheatre@gmail.com, call 2138788 or text 0917 5197811 to reserve tickets. Tickets are also available at Ticketworld with phone 891 9999 and website www.ticketworld.com.ph.

Great gathering

Tonight, musical series from past to present gathers at what may quite possibly be the biggest Philippine music event of the year. "Then And Now" is a massive music festival that will feature an artists slated to perform their greatest hits for their Filipino fans: SNFL DM, Dawn, Diana King, Baby Bash, Frankie J and JoJo, with more surprise guests. SM Mall of Asia Concert Grounds. Call Ticket World at 891 9999.

Sale at Solstice

Alluding to the last and longest days of summer, the Summer Solstice Bazaar - the first in the Solstice Bazaar Series - is all about giving shoppers the best pick of both seasons and is the perfect venue for you to put your summer collections on sale and give them a sneak peak at the fashion premieres you have planned for fall. June 5-6 at the Rockwell Tent, from 10:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Contact Pauline at 0917-8055506 or email solstice.rockwell@gmail.com.

Information is subject to change without prior notice. For more information on events, log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Hinterval Magazine at your favorite malls, bars and restaurants. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to entertainment@24-7.com and mag247@gmail.com for inclusion in this column.

super

PCOS wins the election!

From page D1

(Continued from D1)

Town news centers added a tech twist to their reporting by employing alleged hologram images of their field reporters a la Obi Wan Kenobi while making exaggerated swipes against a big countercurrent, whose main function was to serve as a backbeat channel for tweets & Facebook statuses.

Of course, of all these election-related gadgets, none was so popular as this month's brainstorm, the PCOS (pee-host) Machine. The printer-like Precinct Count Optical Scan machine promised to bring election results to the 21st century fully automated tallying, reducing man-made votes and accuses for dressing while guaranteeing accurate delivery of elected officers in 10 hours.

It was not the first of every reporter and anchor from following the election and like the boogeyman who would cause to life when enough people believed in his existence, to come to life the month discussed. PCOS like, chose.

And it decided to say hello on Twitter.

Debut

@PCOSmachine made its Twitter debut around 7 p.m. on Monday, it was after all too busy to start tweeting earlier, its energy spent eating (and counting) ballot automatically. A steady stream of funny tweets soon appeared after, and QMO Interview @PCOSMachine's skyrocketing number of followers and itself.

The adult in me curiously knew that there was a person behind @PCOSmachine's Twitter presence, but the kid in me who learned to idolize from a giant, cup-wearing, upright turtle and a growling "monsong" couldn't help but be stoked by a

black box screaming funny anecdotes from the polling precincts. In my mind, @PCOSmachine had big cartoony eyes, a wide mouth that opened to say ballots. ("Me like the shaded ones, 'scan scan more!") and a bopping gait that made its plastic body quiver whenever it was time to hop from precinct to precinct, like Flying Jesus, but spewing electoral results in lieu of biblical scriptures.

@PCOSmachine's viral success led to other copycats like the combat-of-science-@BallOt MM who disappeared pretty quickly and @dread who didn't have the snappy response of the tweeting black box. Soon, the followers grew increasingly curious about @PCOSmachine's identity and a reveal was promised last Wednesday through 'El Shamino on ABC, who was personality chosen by @PCOSmachine for Shamino's ability to speak "machine."

The retelling was eagerly awaited by the Twitterverse, with some Twitter users ignoring work to view ABC's livestream instead, and this event eventually eclipsed the election results.

Faceless appeal

While I was also curious about the person behind @PCOSmachine, I somehow felt that having a face to associate with @PCOSmachine would somehow diminish the fun. A huge part of @PCOSmachine's appeal stemmed from its faceless/non-schools somehow translated to being a neutral. (And partly otherwise, a little apart from all the election mayhem going on. Twitter user @Mercedes qualified it best in his

tweet in which he called @PCOSmachine the best election-related Twitter account ever, in the way that it diffused political tension among different camps, as even Twitter was not exempt from the unpleasant atmosphere caused by the election.

It was later revealed that a 21-year-old lawyer was inside @PCOSmachine's little box. Sixx Gonzalez (who also had a brief acting stint in the now defunct noir TV show 'E.G.'), started tweeting as @PCOSmachine on a lark, and did not foresee that giving voice to a hapless but maligned PCOS machine would earn him fourteen celebrity stans. To date, he's been interviewed on, appeared on various local on TV & radio to talk about his amazing after ego.

Asked whether he'll be @PCOSmachine live, Gonzalez replies that when the elections are over, @PCOSmachine might take a backseat as the guy behind the tweeting box resumes regular programming.

"@PCOSmachine's commanding presence and witty one-liners I feel it left me feeling a little bereft as my image of a giddy, talking box was replaced by a regular human with Twitter access. Still, everyone had fun while it lasted, and we now wait for the next funny inanimate object to come along and meet sweet-bip.

@PCOSmachine's greatest hits

JUST TALKED TO FINAT TO CLARIFY SOME CONFUSION ON that "Congratulations" message. I should have been more clear to him, my bad.

about 23 hours ago via Echofon

"@PCOSmachine how'd your life story will be a movie. how would u like it to be called?" nina @ginaschay—maybe "PEDS of You."

9:21 a.m. May 11 via Tweetie

CT @bdbcray: "man highest draw ang komagram ng ABS-CBN at GMA" kanino kaya. Ano makakalo nun dun?"—Cla they have a twitter account? WHAT? SO?

1:31 a.m. May 11 via Echofon

CT @ayngabriela: "@PCOSmachine Can ur machines handle Pinoy Ito. Fanatics?"—Thats an apt tagline eh. "HALALAN 2010. Powered by Zombies"

10:01 p.m. May 10th via Echofon

"@pcosmachine If u see given schools, wat shall be ur confirmation message instead of "Congratulations"? ina @sadstepmom—"ARE YOU SURE?"

9:36 p.m. May 10th via Echofon

"PCOSmachine has dru united me dat if elections i over?" /via @whowhatwhen—Relieved. Disappointed. Surprised. Hopeful. Two Filipinos r crazy.

9:34 p.m. May 10th via Echofon

CT @lizlits: @PCOSmachine shouldn't your tweets say "via PCOS machine"?—I'm using an iPhone sir. My tool! to better client matrix. No swipe.

9:31 p.m. May 10th via Echofon

"what is your take on the candidacy of Jamby Madrigal?" /via @Gelo_cool—She has/does like fun. Made consoling easy cuz not too much votes.

8:58 p.m. May 10th via Tweetie

@hoosier installed a twitter client in #iBoLLIN still needs to get used to. Best thing u know for Mac starting you to join friendster.

8 p.m. May 10th via Tweetie

"pls down the offended, but- it's a looked like an automated paper shredder. :P" /via @cosmicdiner—fine..I'd compliment. It looks like a font.

7:43 p.m. May 10th via Tweetie

"@PCOSmachine why be, your no better than ABCfone!!! That dude is a #nerd #nerd!!" /via @abbe'kibuyth—I believe he was psychoanalyzing COB -King.

10:13 a.m. May 10th via Tweetie

"@PCOSmachine why is it that sometimes when you swallow the ballot it gets jammed?" /via @Mikkel.ballzballs—gag reflex. Bloody programmers.

7:41 a.m. May 10th via Tweetie

"@PCOSmachine why do u have strap marks on the ballots?" /via @abbestofcebu—I can process up to 100 ballots/hour, but only around 60 tweets/hour.

SUPER LIFESTYLE

ON THE SET OF "GREENBERG." Ben Stiller and Noah Baumbach

SUPERMARKET finds actor's Roger's only baggage.

SUPER EXCLUSIVE

'Greenberg' teaches us the importance of being idle

THUNDER ROAD
James Lorenzo

Ben Stiller's latest film gets under your skin with its subtle and slightly uncomfortable tones

ROGER WALKS AND walks on the street, supermarket bags in tow. But home and food supplies aren't the only kinds of baggage he carries: "Dear American Airlines," "Dear Mayor Bloomberg," "Dear Starbucks," "Dear Hollywood Pet Taxi Co." Roger likes writing letters—but to say hello, how are you, you're been great, but to point out what seems to be everyone's little mistakes.

Urban middle-aged angst is the overarching theme of director Noah Baumbach's latest film "Greenberg." Roger Greenberg (played by Ben Stiller) moves to New York to work as a carpenter, after failing to make it to the music industry in Los Angeles. Now, 40 and pale, he's returned to human ole his brother's Hollywood home and to reconnect with his lone friend and ex-girlfriend. As it dawns on him that they've drifted apart, he spends his days doing absolutely nothing. Well, not nothing: He leaves around the house, walks the dog, exercises dog-heroic, reads the paper, watches his neighbors, and naives...even if he doesn't know how.

"You seem like doing nothing," Florence (actress Greta Gerwig), his brother's personal assistant, tells him. "I'm doing nothing deliberately," he replies. "There's so much crap out there." During their first meeting, Roger runs his iPod on and plays "It Never Rains in Southern California" by English musician Albert Hammond. The song is about a singer who moves to L.A., fails in pursuit a career in Hollywood, and destroyes in the process.

As in Baumbach's earlier films "The Squid and the Whale" and "Margot at the Wedding," a combination of dark and natural lighting is employed to add unfluence to look closer. The film's brilliance can be found in the spaces in between, granting us a deeper glimpse on the characters—we feel we know them, yet they are strangely alienated from us.

In one of the many uncomfortable conversations between the two leads, Roger references the movie "Shall Breeze," precisely the scene where Charlie

GREENBERG 4D

"NOT BEING funny is not difficult for me," says Ben Stiller.

ACTORS Greta Gerwig, Ben Stiller and Rhys Ifans, and director Noah Baumbach attend the "Greenberg" World Premiere at the 60th Berlin International Film Festival.

Graphics Design: Ruben Joshua Cardo

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

New GM for A.Venue Hotel Suites & Antel Spa Hotel Suites

ALBERO

THE MANAGEMENT and owners of A'Venue Hotel Suites & Antel Spa Hotel Suites in Makati Avenue, Makati City is pleased to announce the appointment of Ismael S. Albero as general manager of the two (2) sister offshoot hotels.

Albero brings with him solid years of hands on experience in the hotel industry particularly in the fields of finance, administration and operations. Prior to his present post, Albero held various key positions in five-star hotels, among them, the Shangri-La Boracay Resort & Spa, the Bellevue Hotel Manila, Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Traders Hotel Manila, Tapestry Nightlands International Café & Country Club, and other deluxe hotels abroad.

He is a graduate of Accountancy from Leyte Colleges in Tacloban City and finished his Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of Manila.

Albero hopes to continue the vision of his predecessor in marketing the two hotel centers as the newest lifestyle destinations and of the same time, continue to maintain the lead of A. Venue Hotel Suites & Antel Spa Hotel Suites as the best choice of local and international travellers in Makati.

A. Venue Hotel Suites & Antel Spa Hotel Suites are both managed by Octanna Hotels & Resorts Corp and are conveniently located at the Antel Lifestyle City, 7829 Makati Avenue, Makati City. For inquiries and reservations, call 403-0888 and 687-8808. Log on to www.avenuehotelsuites.com and www.antelhotels.com.

The Richmonde Grill's chef's exclusives for May

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, ANOTHER FILLing meal, complete with appetizer, dessert and a choice of two mouth-watering main dish selections, is served at The Richmonde Grill for only P675 net.

This exquisite set starts off with the Beef Salad with Grated Sardinella Vinaigrette with Mixed Greens, Cherries, Tomatoes & Shaved Parmesan Cheese then comes either the Lapu-Lapu al Cartoccio on a Bed of Okra, Carrots, Zucchini & Lemon Grass with Lemon Wheel Served over a Steamed Rice & Shredded Green Papaya Chutney or the Grilled Pork Ribs Served with Garlic Rice, Stone Fruit & Corn Remula with Pasadena Sauce, and finally a choice of Leche Flan with a layer of soft caramel and topped with seasoned fresh fruit slices or the Richmonde Blend Coffee or Iced Tea.

The Set Grill serves the Chef's exclusives all day every day. For inquiries or reservations, call the Richmonde Grill at 687-8410 or 636-7777 extension 3405. The Richmonde Grill is located at the 2nd Floor of The Richmonde Hotel, 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Inagiku in colorful bloom at Makati Shangri-la

MARVEL AT THE WONDERS OF Japanese cuisine as Makati Shangri-La's Inagiku offers its Spring Collection of the chef's most colorful and exquisite culinary specials until May 31. The Spring Collection is available for lunch and dinner. April is the month when Japan is in full bloom. Cherry blossoms, popularly known as Sakura, fill the countryside with their innate and fleeting beauty. Known as the season adored symbol, the cherry blossoms herald the expectation of the arrival heralds the end of the winter season. The signature dishes of Japanese Chef Wataru Hikawa allow diners to experience the explosion of colors and flavors of spring. Diners can enjoy special dishes such as Nanchuan Chinkalo (cooked spring vegetable with bonito flakes), Isobe Asare (Slice Pay Two), Asari Tappan (Short Neck Clam with Enoki Boiled), Takenoko Gambo (Grilled Bamboo Shoot with Japanese Herb), Gindara Sugiyu Yaki (Grilled Cod with Color Bluefil Attached Ashoma Wasabi Sauce), Kinoko Gohan (Mushroom), Sesame Hirame Yaki, Ikenbara Baku Yi (Boiled Japanese Black Fish), Sakura Ebi Kakiage (Deep Fried Shrimp), Wagyuniku Teppanyaki (Sliced Sirloin Beef) and Shiyasaki Nara Mizuyaki Beef with Hob Leaf).

For inquiries and reservations, call the restaurant reservations and information center at 813-8888 local 7788/7789 or 845-0984. Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts currently owns and/or manages 66 hotels under the Shangri-La and Traders brands with a rooms inventory of over 30,000. For more information, log on to www.shangri-la.com.

Bluewater Day Spa opens at Eastwood City

BLUEWATER DAY SPA OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS NEWEST MANDAUE BRANCH AT THE ground floor of One Orchard Road, Eastwood City Cyberpark. Operated by Beauty, Skin and Wellness Inc, the new branch hopes to establish a holistic approach to wellness amidst the hustle and bustle of the newly built dynamic commercial and entertainment establishments. Following the opening of Bluewater Day Spa are popular celebrity endorsers Kaylin, Rochelle Pangilinan, model/TV star Kathleen Dulin, TV and commercial model Bowers Jimenez together with beauty queen Miss Philippines Earth 2003 Maricel Laxa. Miss Earth-Air, Jennylind Spa Essentials and Regency Skincare, vice president of Bluewater Day Spa. People who like to pamper themselves with a relaxing body massage, facial or other beauty treatments can avail of Eastwood City's newly built residential spaces and work in the area's corporate centers will now have this chance to experience world-class spa services at very attractive prices.

'Greenberg' teaches us ...

from page E1

Stone's character looks out at Manhattan from his balcony and muses, "Who are 27—certainly rabid stalkerazzi will pounce on that watching, 'Greenberg' is an absorbing, at times hilarious, and almost mythic love story to solitude and others. It is a testament to Hamish Linklater's skill of coming face-to-face with the most existential of topics using simple, quiet words.

Take five with Ben Stiller

Super talks to the funniest comedian other his film's world premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Super: What attracted you to this role—strictly a change of pace for you?

Ben Stiller: I'm a big fan of Noah [Baumbach]. He [his] a director and it was a big opportunity to work on a film [for] it not than other kind of film, the comedy. To be funny all the time is a hard thing.

S: How easy [is] Jake—sad dude having to abandon your acting?

BS: Also, could have thought? Not being funny is not difficult for me. There was a very good script that worked for me. While shooting, I noticed that I get completely absorbed by Greenberg's character.

S: I found "Greenberg" less of a love story and more a movie about growing up. Your thoughts?

BS: Of course. Life sort of creeps up on you. I've got two kids, and kids force you to thinking outside of yourself a little bit. There is a feeling like you have your life ahead of you. "Greenberg" is really coming up against the fact that he doesn't. You have to accept these things and that's part of growing up.

S: After that, are you going back to doing comedies? Will you do Tommy and the cast of your career?

BS: I can well imagine that I'll always say to bring laughter to people, whether as an actor or as ordinary human being. Maybe people will later on say about "Greenberg" was a start for me towards a new direction. But that analysis I leave to others, to newspapers, the viewers.

S: Where is Ben Stiller off to next? Back to Hollywood?

BS: Yes, I have to—the cast in Africa for a new movie. It's set in Namibia and Lagos. And so, sorry, I can't talk about the new film yet. I'll tell you next time.

BEN STILLER as Roger—the master of ethos, middle-aged angst

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Try Starbucks Cold Coffee Options with a bite

Starbucks introduces six new food items this summer to complement its wide range of cold coffee options. Whether you are looking for an indulgent treat or better-for-you items, these balanced food products will surely answer your craving.

BANANA BLUEBERRY HONEY OAT MUFFIN

For breakfast or snack, nothing beats this simple but gorgeous light, fluffy and moist muffin bursting with flavor of blueberries and bananas topped with crispy honey oats. A perfect way to start the day or with an afternoon cup of coffee or tea.

BACON HAM AND GRUYERE CHEESECAKE

This mouthwatering mix...delicious, creamy and elegant slices. French deli with caramelized onion, crispy bacon, and spicy bits of ham and gruyere cheese suspended in a savory egg mixture all baked in a buttery flaky pie crust. Best served warm.

GRILLED TUNA CAESAR WRAP

Juicy grilled Cajun flavored tuna steak, chopped crunchy apples, toasted chopped walnuts, fresh romaine and iceberg lettuce tossed with our classic Caesar salad dressing, all wrapped in a crispy, chewy flour tortilla. Best served cold.

KARATE KID'S CHICKEN TERIYAKI AND UNLIMITED RICE FOR ONLY P99

DID YOU KNOW THAT CHICKEN TERIYAKI IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS JAPANESE DISH? The term is derived from its grill. Teriyaki literally means a "glossy broil," and the soy sauce-based marinade and basted on the chicken while it's being cooked gives it the shiny glaze to which it derives for its name. Soy, salt, either sea salt or rock salt, and traditionally sweetens teriyaki, and soy sauces sweetens marinade and baste the dish while cooking. Mirin brings out the sweetness from the Japanese name the sauce. A basic teriyaki sauce's ingredients are brown sugar, cornstarch, garlic, some Japanese rice wine, sake, soy sauce and ginger. The word teriyaki didn't enter American vocabulary until the '50s, and one of the popular Japanese dishes in the United States that until now is chicken teriyaki. Chicken Teriyaki is one of the best-selling dishes for those in search for the Japanese fish food experience for its offerings choice all-over-rice meals and bottomless drinks. Whatever their order, guests are assured of a "Japanese" experience among dining experience or value for money Japanese food. KK Chicken Teriyaki consists of succulent chicken marinated in Karate Kid's special teriyaki sauce, giving the chicken the signature sweet soy sauce glaze that is known the world over. All of Karate Kid's delicious Meals come with unlimited rice. At P99, KK Chicken Teriyaki's delicious value for money and is available in all Karate Kid branches located in each: RESTAURANTS: SM Cebu, SM Seaside City Cebu, Ayala Center Cebu, Robinsons Galleria Cebu, Robinsons Fuente Cebu, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Pioneer, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita

They want your vote! (to digital fame)

10 young hopefuls want to be the coolest peeps on the net

FROM RIGHT: Schmitko, Ramos, De Leon, Cunio, Villarivera, Miranda, Bagunu and Pressman

Text and photos by Jed-Angelo Q. Segovia

THIS IS AN ERA WHERE elementary students are taught how to create podcasts, and high school students create blogs for final projects. The digital world is our bold new frontier, and the next generation is increasingly tech-savvy pioneers and prospectors.

Enter PLDT's myDSL Wideband, a one-stop portal that allows myDSL subscribers to watch their favorite shows online for free. Among its channels are CNN, History and National Geographic, channels once previously viewable only on cable television.

Now, tech-savvy youth and netizens of any media join forces in a search for 2010's PLDT Wideband Crew, the digital descendants of TV's ex-Jejemons.

'X' marks the spot

Last April 28 at Xtreme PJ in Taguig, PLDT introduced 10 charismatic youths vying for the first-ever Wideband Crew membership. The 10 hopefuls are Carole Monique "Blinky" De Leon, George Schmitko, Goldabrel Garcia, Jacqueline Milare, Mara Schmitko, Nikki Ramos, Noel Pressman, Adrie Bagunu, Rissel Billiranda and Ricdo Villaflorida.

The event, called "X," presented them to Xtreme's party crowd, bloggers and media, kicking off the search for the final five. The winners stand to win not just the prestige of being the faces of the Wideband portal. They'll also enjoy Sony Vaio laptops, myDSL subscriptions for a year, and a cool P1 million.

They'll also join personalities like Bianca Ramos and GMA champion Alex Ross in the Speed Genie drift exhibition and the "biggest Internet and laptop sale," Libre Broadband Bonanza. The winners will be chosen by online vote on the myDSL Wideband website.

Naturally, the candidates were chosen for their personalities and passions, like sports, music, modeling and digital culture. They were also chosen for their adventurous interest in their digital generation.

Milestone

The event finalists presented themselves with enthusiasm dwindling their personalities and platforms for Wideband.

Bagunu, a musician who calls himself "The Rock Star," said he hopes Wideband will be "a milestone as a career towards musicianship or media-writing, blogging."

"I look at him like a rock star," Ramos said. "I really feel like a rock star now. It's a very good time to be in the media, and it's best for making friends with the crew and having the time of my life."

Still, 16-year-old Miranda, "The Model" ("My brother is 6'5" so I'm glad I'm 6-and a half"), said about the Wideband awards: "It's very fun but more rewarding, for the past weeks I haven't been sleeping well."

"I don't want to build a career on beauty and posing for pictures. I want to study, and work as a magazine or advertising consultant," she added.

Villanueva took the moniker "The Entrepreneur" from a friend, who up on seeing Villanueva's flyer work, 'screamed that nickname on him.

"I thought it was a nice catchphrase. 'I'm entrepreneur!'" he said.

The candidate from Ateneo de Davao, who's a filmmaker, marketer and 3-D animation buyer, is revolutionize digital entertainment. "My first step is that is introducing digital entertainment to Davao."

MyDSL's advertising slogan says, "The Internet is as big as you want it to be." And these 10 hopefuls hope to be your guides to the vast realm, through the exclusive window of Wideband.

Wideband users can also vote with the candidates today at 3pm on the Wideband website.

Log on to http://www.pldtmydsl.com to vote for your top five Wideband candidates. End of voting is on May 23.

HOST Rissel Ramos (right) congratulates Miranda, as Schmitko's

2b LIFESTYLE

What they did (fashionably) for summer

'Reporting to the bosses about what's selling and what's not was like meeting Tim Gunn' —Jazmin Reyes, Topshop intern

INTERNS brought friends along to model summerwear. PHOTOS BY ROMAN ANG

By Kara Vibal Gutierrez
Trainee correspondent, Areas de Manila

THE WORD "INTERN" seems to evoke long hours of work, drudgery, and personal sacrifice. Think Andrea Sachs from the film "The Devil Wears Prada," and the things she had to endure from her boss from hell, Miranda Priestly. But for this year's Robinsons Store Specialist Inc.'s (RSSI) Summer Experience interns, this is the one fun summer they will long remember for the way their internship changed the way they see fashion.

STUDENT models intern's styled boho creation.

RSSI initially asked interested participants to submit a photo wearing their favorite outfit from Topshop, Topman, Dorothy Perkins, and Tinarose, according to RSSI's marketing manager Ina Sandrin. "They also had to answer the question: Why I'd be perfect for the Summer Experience." Around two hundred entries were submitted but only the top twelve hopefuls, all Universities, aged 15 to 19 years old, got accepted to the 10-day work shop.

HOHOH intern Wayne Cabrera looking casual in a plaid polo and khaki shorts

Dirty work

Fashion, the participants learned, was not all glitz and glamour. Dressed in their respective RSSI store uniforms, they worked behind the scenes as staff and cashier assistants. They were also tasked to style the mannequins of the different RSSI stores as well as to create mood boards featuring Spring Summer 2010 trends. And they too had their own share of dirty work by cleaning up and rearranging the clothes rack every time a customer hurriedly gets something from it.

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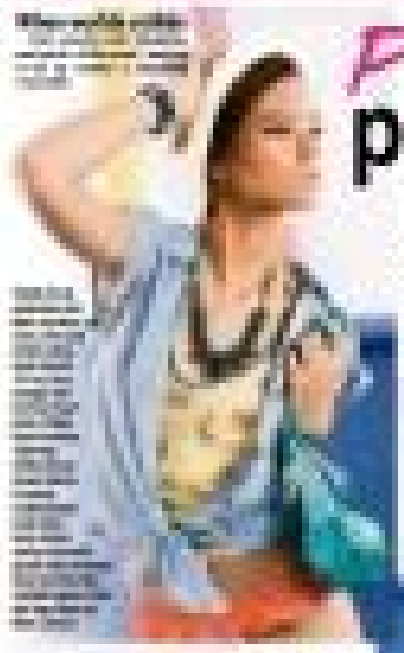
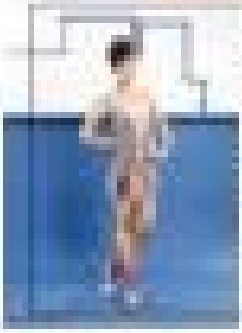
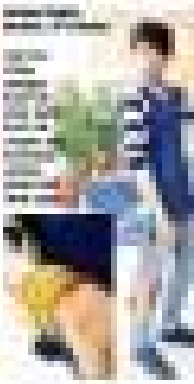


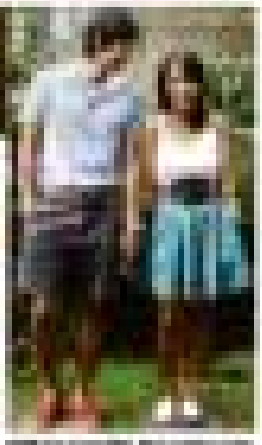


What they did (fashionably) for summer

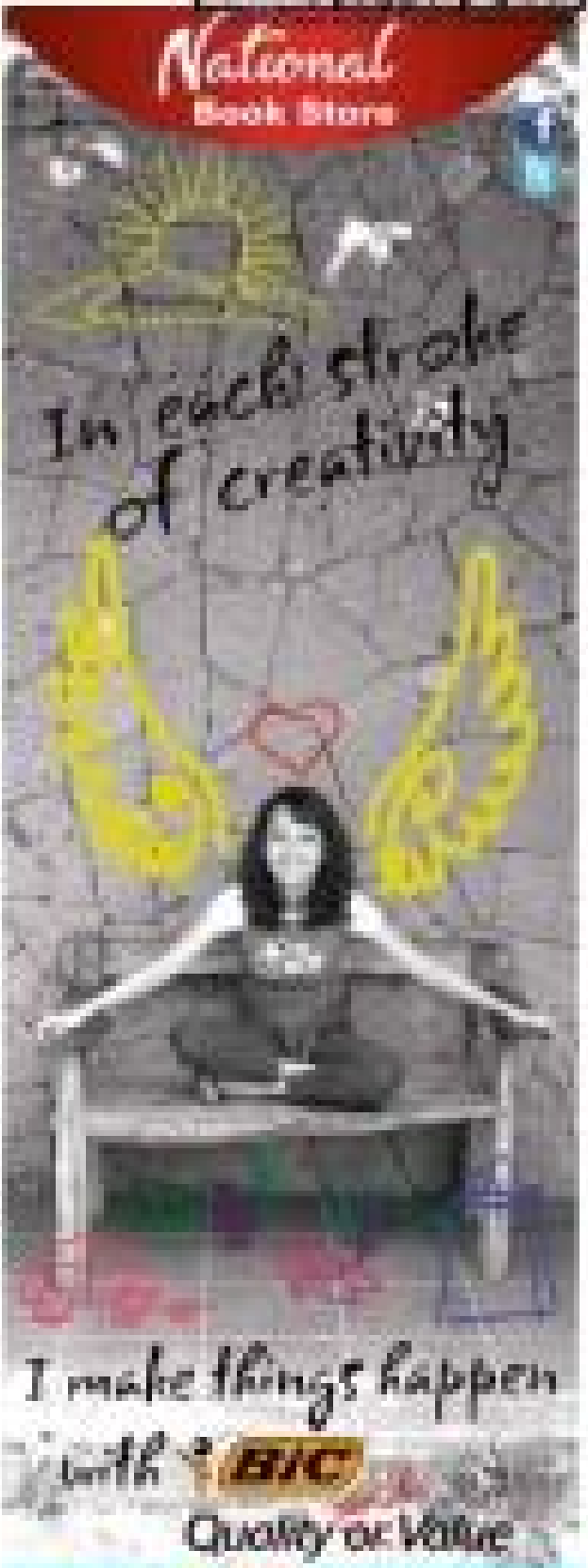
Who wore what?



How to sport espadrilles for summer



National Book Store



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Fifa World Cup Fun at SM

Feel the energy of the 2018 FIFA World Cup with this The World Stage round neck tee

Round neck join The Global Pitch tee with orange and white color combination

Red round neck Celebrate Football in life tee with FIFA patch

Feel the call of the South African World Cup with this black United By Football graphic printed tee

Football fever comes to Manila with the 2018 FIFA World Cup this June. While this will be held in South Africa, the good news is that your little boys can join you in rooting for your favorite team with exclusive 2018 FIFA World Cup licensed merchandise available at the Children's Wear Department of selected SM stores.

There are souvenir FIFA World Cup as well as individual team jackets and tees that bring out the rhythm and energy of the overs. Wear these as you cheer for your favorite team as the world's longest soccer event unfolds.

The 2018 FIFA World Cup, the 21th organized by the Federation Internationale de Football Association, will take place from June 11- July 11 in South Africa. It is the culmination of a qualification process involving 204 or 208 FIFA national teams. From these 32 teams qualified to compete in the South Africa tournament.

Licensed 2018 FIFA World Cup merchandise are available at the Children's Wear Department of SM Department Store stores in Makati, SM City North EDSA, SM Megamall, and the SM Mall of Asia in Metro Manila as well as the SM Supermalls in Clark, Sta. Rosa, and Cebu in the provincial areas.

Road for Brazil in this unisex yellow tee

Blue Celebrate Football in Life round neck tee with FIFA patch

Red United by Football collared tee with black combination

Road tee and FIFA hooded jacket

The World Stage round neck pullover, orange, white and black color combination

Go for the current champion in this blue polo shirt with the flag at back

Getting Back to School

Prepare for the new school year early with these staples

Exclusively Available at the Children's Wear Department

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

2b LIFESTYLE

Killing time from 9 to 5

Here's how to earn cash this summer

By Bonice Beatrice H. Braga
Student correspondent,
University of the Philippines

SUMMER IS THE BEST time to tick the mind, water to the brain, master all the songs in Guitar Hero in just one day, go on a food trip, spend the night with a couple of friends—it's basically the best time to have fun! But the thing about having fun, though, is that you can't always have it for free.

Since classmate with the Nintendo Wii might be abroad on a vacation on the day you suddenly decided that you want to work out to outrun old school and new school rock, or maybe your best friend, aside your favorite chef, can't help you make that European food trip happen because she has a couple of summer classes to attend to.

Either way, we all find ourselves emptying a couple of piggy banks and searching for loose change at some point during the summer—for some where, if you're not taking summer classes, it'll be tough luck trying to ask the perennial cadet for an "allowance."

So before you raid your grade school backpack for summer money here are a few ways you can take to the cash.

Get introverted. One of the top summer jobs that I've been hearing about since high school is tutoring. I suppose this is the universe's way of getting payback for all of those times when we dozed off or didn't listen in class. For the theorists, Newtons, Hemingways, and Pascals among your friends, summer is a good time to earn some more, try an internship—even—for the words, sana likely to help out in the high school and college entrance test reviews.

If you'd rather work at home, you could also tutor students online, as there are reputable websites where you can sign up, get some training, and become a tutor. These sites are usually for those who'd want to teach English to foreigners, but whichever way you choose to teach, a resume and an interview are usually necessary, so it is done of sorts so that you could hone and practice your teaching skills.

Get served. Another summer job favorite is working at the local coffee shop or fast-food place. Whether it's learning how to make a mocha frappe, or balancing trays of burgers and fries, there's something about working with food that appeals to a lot of people. Maybe it's because one's going to find out how one's favorites are made, or maybe because it just looks like so much fun.

But no matter. Summer is the time for practicums. But, just because you're an intern doesn't mean you can't mix it up a little bit. If you find something not related to your course interesting enough to work on, and you think you have enough experience to try working in that field, then you can interest for a company specializing in that field, just so you could learn something new. Some students even intern abroad, as in the case of a college classmate of mine who's now teaching kids at Malaysia.

Get your own space, your time. If you'd rather work on your own time, and choose your own workplace, then freelancing is for you. Whether you're a writer, photographer, or a musician, or basically if you're good at what you love to do, there's always work to be done, and it could be found anywhere. From big companies, companies on their way to the top, to even your closest friends and relatives, if you're good, and if you have something that resembles a portfolio, you still find something. Aside from having your own hours, going from your workplace to another, and getting your creative juices pumping, freelancing allows you to meet different kinds of people in various places to different occasions, guaranteeing that it'll be a first, unique experience every single time. The pay varies for every job you do—if you're lucky, eventually you can name your price, but otherwise the pay's pretty good. And the best part? You get paid for doing something you know you love.

And when all else fails... save it you can attempt some money out of doing courses at home. This, of course, will meet some opposition from the parental units, but remember when you were a kid and got away with it? Of course you'll have to do something a bit more complicated than sweeping the floor—maybe cooking meals—but this is a last ditch effort I will recommend only if you'd rather stay at home and not take the NBA playoffs, or if you'd rather save the job hunting for another summer.

DISCOVER A NEW FAVOURITE

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My first *university* tour

'Not a must, but definitely worth the trouble'

By Addy Hains
Student contributor, Morning Star (Missouri School) Gee-Bobs, (upon)

I SPENT MOST OF MY CHILDhood praying/asking God to someday give me the opportunity to study in the place where I grew up, at UP Diliman. I wanted to study at UP so badly, but after we moved in with our grandparents to UP Los Baños, I realized that fulfilling my dream wouldn't be easy.

I was disappointed when I didn't pass the entrance exam for UP High School at UPLB. My hopes were crushed, worried of the slim chances of me getting into UP Diliman for college.

I'm now months away from college. I will be taking a lot of entrance exams. I already didn't pass the UPCAT, having low grades during my third year in high school. I wasn't alone; a lot of my batch mates are having the same problem.

Disheartened, I was able to bring myself back to my feet through my dad's prodding to use the university campuses. He told me to bring my friends along.

Ateneo

Our first stop was Ateneo, the **best university I ever laid my eyes on.** Every building looked **marvelous, and was so comfortable.** The campus had this **amazing aura that relaxes you** and beats the heat even if it was almost noon.

Even getting the brochures makes you feel exclusive. You go to a way inside the Dean's office, where our questions were entertained by the interviewer while we waited for the brochures to be printed.

We also had a chance to talk to some students. They were friendly and easy to talk to, as if we've known each other before. We could the opportunity to ask them what makes Ateneo life so different from the other schools. They told us they had Philosophy and Theology classes in their freshman years where you get to talk in a large room that seats an estate. It breaks their confidence, and we wouldn't doubt what they said even by a split second.

We would love to stay there a little while longer but we four we might never ever leave, so we made our goodbye to the enthralling campus of Ateneo and proceed to, in neighboring university—UP Diliman.

Diliman

I might have loved the place

UP's Oblation statue

instantly if it was our first stop, but after seeing Ateneo, UP Diliman didn't look as great as I used to remember it. Everything I saw were now only blank memories of what I used to know of it.

We headed straight towards the Beach House behind the main library for lunch, a decade or more had passed and still, it was there, still serving the same thing and still serving the same number of customers. The barbecue was still good. Genuinely, it was still the same in a comforting way.

After eating, we walked around the campus, walking past the well known buildings and the dormitories, having a brief history check on the Rizalobrads along the way.

UST

We left Diliman with a pair of weary legs, but we (when) yearning by of Dibi to check if he needed anything like clothes or a pair of pants! We was kind of

BEACH House Canteen offers the best barbecue on campus

HIGH-SCHOOL seniors Addy Hains (author), Chelsea Manzano, Abi Andrenio, Jemma Bonifacio, Kiven Cajoe and Trina Abrera

Going home

The day was over. We left dad in Manila because he had a meeting, so Tito Jonas, our company salesman and church mate, drove us home. We left Manila once more, vowed that even We had a stronger urge to study harder after our visit in the universities we liked, wishing we could return to the place and never leave ever again.

Because of this trip, we had a clearer view of what we really wanted. And if we worked hard enough, the dream isn't really far from our reach. Save the diminished hope I lost was back on its feet and is going to be with me during the coming months of the entrance exams. As you can see, the road doesn't really have to be a route, but a state is better if you did it!

Guide to dormitory-hunting

From facilities to security, it is good to ask questions

By Telly C. Salazar
Student correspondent,
Philippine Science High School

SCOUTING FOR A DORMITORY is not as easy as you think it is. There are many things that you have to consider. Clean water dispenser, internet connections, and the proximity to your school are just a few of them. To avoid dormitory-mentations, weigh your options carefully in choosing the perfect dorm for you. Here is a guide on what you have to keep in mind when looking for a dormitory.

1 The facilities should be satisfactory. Your dorm should have bathrooms with properly functioning toilets, sinks, and showers. The laundry room should have a good washing machine, too.

2 Security and safety are important. An ideal dorm should have fire alarms, fire extinguishers, **emergency exits, and properly** locking doors and windows. Don't maybe even a CCTV for some dorms that **can afford it. Know the police** and fire stations nearest to **the dorm, and have their con**tact numbers in you have somebody to call in cases of emergency.

3 Lodging fees should be reasonable. Your budget may be limited so you have to make sure/some how much you will be spending for your dorm/fees. Go for a dormitory with good facilities and reasonable fees instead of expensive dorms that are just a bit better.

4 Nearby meal stations. Check out the cafeteria and see if you like their food/ service. If not, then there's better be nearby food establishments that you can go to for your meals.

5 Accessible internet. Surely you'll need that. How do you like the speed of the internet in the room? If you're not planning to have your own computer in the dorm, make sure that there is a nearby computer shop you can go to when you need to connect to the Internet.

6 Check the other parts of the dorms. Are the bathrooms comfy? Are the lounges the type that you'd want to stay in after a stressful day? Are the study halls conducive for studying? You should be able to find a place, if not the room you plan to stay in, where you know you can study in peace.

7 Know the rules. Have you gone through all of them? Pay close attention when visiting hours are, what time the dorm curfew is, and all the other rules you need to follow before deciding on staying in that dorm. Then ask yourself if you can comply with those rules.

8 Know your roommates. Be sure that you get to know them and that you'll be able to get along with them. Some dormers pick roommates from their friends, so they won't need to worry about adjusting to other people.

9 Ask around. It wouldn't hurt to ask the prevailing dormers about what they think of the dorm. They might have stories about it to share with you, or warnings for you about what you should be careful of in the dorm you're deciding on. That way, at least you'll have a background of what the other dormers think about the dormitory than you're choosing to be your second home.

Don't just go for what your parents or guardians approve of. After all, it's you moving to a dorm and not them. So be sure that what you're getting into is what you want, not what they want for you. Choose the surroundings you know you can feel warm and comfortable in.

YEAH! Globe fiction celebrity walkathon participants

Wrapping up summer fun with a hope for a better Philippines

GENG de la Pena, Pinky Rosales, Mia Reyes, Sonya Escala and JR Ilasco of Globe Fiction

Boracay Bound 9 celebrates change

THE WEEKEND BEFORE THE elections, Boracay Bound 9, dubbed as the longest-running adventure and party series in Boracay, revealed its anticipation and hope for a better future as it paid homage to the Abaloz Land, aiming to ignite the 'EDSpirit' sense of nationalism and act as an advocate and participant of change.

This year's two-day event celebrated several "Celebrating Change," with activities uniting participants' Filipino pride—not just physically, but mentally.

Celebrities and media personalities, which included Sunya Smith, Miss Earth winners Jamila Bedrel and Larissa Ramos, Miss Ayess, Channel V VJs Megan Young, Alvey Pulga, Cliff Ho and Georgina Wilson, Magic 89.9's Tom Roy, Marc Solbes, Gino de la Peña, JC Tiuseco, Gabby de la Merced, Erik Cua, JM Rodriguez, SJ Ledesma, Maggie Wilson, and Sabrina Hassell, came in full force via Bond's 25-minute flight. Globe Tattoo winners Carlo de los Santos and Marco Martinez also joined the fun.

The Asia Beach Front was set for Jim Ellad, Pinoy-inspired beach relay games that included piko, patis sabo and paano ba ito? The first 2 was inside every move exciting with the Celebrity Pitbullcha as participants ran from both ends of the island while selling Globe SIM cards and fulfilling tasks at pit stops.

Debates at Tides Hotel Beachfront served as the perfect venue for overflowing cocktails as everyone chilled down—before the party broke loose. Master Superchi invaded Gallip's with DJ Bot Pan, and Axel Bayas turned up the heat while MC Pino assigned everyone tipsy. Partypiko showed off their sweet Lechon and walked away with amazing prizes.

Intimacy about The Tides' Beachbash with rap resident Ebi from Manila, and a special live dance performance by Rachel Labangco left everyone in awe, right before the celebrities and special guests took on a cruise control via MV Waterlily led by Captain Marco Ramos. It was indeed a memorable Bond 9 two-day event that made everyone united in Filipino pride.

CELEBRATE change.

RACHEL Labangco

IN BAND. Dennise Dee, CF Reyes, Erik Cua and Stephen Ko

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The Iron Man 2 limited edition chicken bucket is available for only P320. You can also upgrade your Chickenjoy and Chicken Barbecue bucket to include 3 rice and 3 regular soft drinks for an additional P80 only. If you want a dessert to go with your meal, just add P139 and you can get 3 rice, 3 regular soft drinks, and 3 chocolate sundaes.

Be part of the excitement of the most anticipated movie this summer! Head to your nearest Jollibee store or dial 8-705-Jollibee (Express Delivery) to get your very own limited edition Iron Man Chickenjoy!

Iron Man 2 opens in cinemas nationwide on April 28.

The thing about *mom*

Although Mother's Day has been foreshadowed by the elections, still we pay tribute to our own household First Ladies that make our lives so presidential

"The best thing about my mom is that she's very loving and caring." —**Jed Baird, 21, Mcademy**

"Best thing about my mom is that she's able to make a month watering dinner and still manage to come out of the kitchen looking fresh." —**Lyan Rivera, 17, College of St. Benilde**

"My mom told me that there was never about pain two people wanting each other—it can be a single person wanting to love himself in order to love God." —**Alain Estella, 22, Mapua Institute of Technology**

"My mom can be very patient with us and supportive of our dreams and aspirations in life. Even if she gets mad, I know that she will still be there at the end of the day to guide us. I love how she sets boundaries and how she instills discipline in us. My mom understands; she doesn't expect us to be perfect and right all the time. And lastly, my mom loves us unconditionally. I can't imagine where I would be without my mother." —**Rose Uy, 11, San Beda College-Alabang**

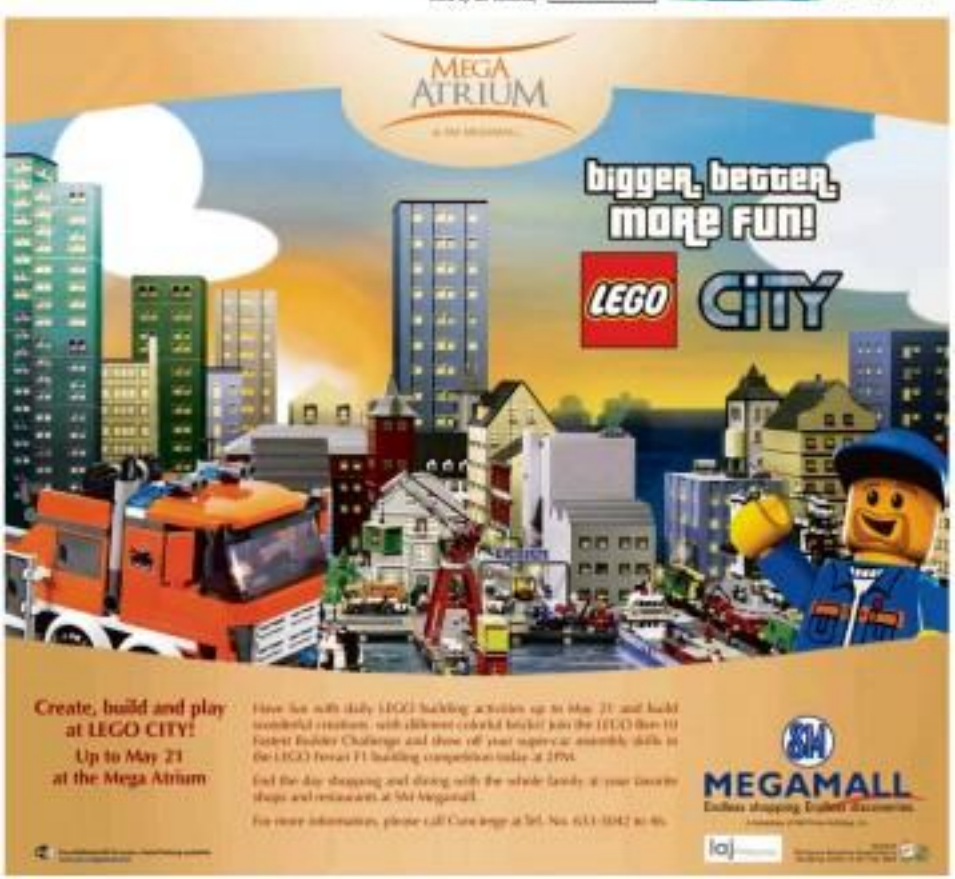
By Isabella Garmendia
Student Correspondent, San Beda College-Alabang

RALPH WALLO FAMOSO, son said, "How are what their mothers wants (sic)mo." Though to some parental men be epitomized by an individual's capacity to make a difference, still we owe much of the credit to a gentle guiding light, who more have the burden of carrying on in her womb for nine months.

Although Mother's Day has been foreshadowed by the elections, still we pay tribute to our own household First Ladies that make our lives so presidential.

Happy Mother's day today and for the rest of this year!

"My mom told me that if you're focused on one thing, you'll achieve much; if you allow yourself to get distracted you'll just end up confused and unaccomplished." —**Allan Esquez, 21, University of the Assumption, San Fernando, Pampanga**



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Charice strengthens bid for international pop stardom

By Rito P. Asilo

IN 2009, CHARICE HAD TO handle an early exit and a wildcard shot on "Little Big Star" to muscle her way to the show's finals. To say the least, her third place finish was quite a surprise—and a downer. Back in those days, it wasn't all that fashionable to root for the shy but steel-voiced provincianon. Funny how things change in only five years' time.

—Which is what makes the anticipated release of her international debut album, "Charice," even more bittersweet. Who would have thought that the petite teenbelter would one day turn out to be "Little Big Star's" "biggest" loser? But, Charice's star to the top must have been written in the stars. With the release of her David Foster-produced album, she strengthens her bid for international pop stardom.

Charice's 12-track recording can be compared to a big rousing out party...what better way to celebrate the YouTube darling's 18th birthday (last Monday, one day before her album's release!). It features radio-friendly tunes that are as carefully arranged as they are expertly rendered. They are lush, sing-and-groove kinda that enable the singer to showcase and shake to her own voice and style.

Copycat culture

We're happy to note that the new songs no longer require Charice to mimic Whitney Houston or Celine Dion—which is what we've been advocating for years. Our sounds's done-to-death first singles really need to put a stop to the local music industry's rampant copycat culture. We have many powerful voices who feel it best to go beyond their otherwise vocal-pleasing performances, because they think that sounding like Mariah Carey or Regine Velasquez is the only way to go. So, they subconsciously relegate themselves to being merely "polished" cover artists.

So far, Charice's album has two hit singles to its name: her show-stopping cover of Diane Warren's "Note to God" topped at No. 44 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart, while "Pyramid," her sassy collaboration with Iyaz, was at No. 2 early this week (oops, it has yet to dislodge Rihanna's "Rude Boy" from the top spot on the Dance Club Play chart).

The R&B cut, "Music," which Charice crooons with Jhene Habib and Adam Messer, is notable not only for its hip-hoppy arrangement, but also for smartly incorporating the singer's Pinoy identity into the lyrics ("Ang pakinggan mo naman ako/ I think that this is the way we digest gawin/ Bitaw, sana naman ikay ang siyang ako/ ...I wish they pumapag ako...").

The quicksilvered sound of "Pyramid" may be the album's catchiest, but you won't find anything more authentic than Foster's "It's This Song," which finds Charice singing about her humble-turned-success: "My belief in myself is gonna carry me through/ ...I'm never far from home...in this song."

a rare bridge to cross/ But, I'm never so far from home...in this song."

Seamless shifts

Jane Powell's "Nobody's Single" to Me" will remind you of Disney's "Best Of A Moments," while "Thank You" starts out with a relaxing arrangement that later segues to a peculiar-but demonstrates Charice's lovely, seamless shifts from chest to crossover head tones.

CHARICE HO

PIXMA

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Cannes film fest augurs well for movie industry

PARIS—AS THE CURTAIN rises on the world's biggest film market at Cannes, festival organizers say the recession-hit film industry looks set to slide out of its slide soon. "There are signs of a timid recovery," festival director Thierry Frémaux told AFP. "Just. Cannes will relive that."

With some 30,000 business types and 400 companies from 87 countries in town for the Cannes Market until May 22, held on the sidelines of the festival, the market is the globe's top movie business place—with schooling and dealing like there is money in movies, either finished or in the planning stage.

Optimism

Market director Jerome Paillard, who has run the sector for 14 years, said that buyers believe the start of business, registrations were up 6 percent from half-tightening 2009. "Everyone's marketing very closely how things go this year," he told AFP. "Professionals are showing up. Important ones again, but we'll see whether this translates into hardcher."

Bankable currency exchange rates, he added, had helped buoy up the 328 previous this year after a difficult edition, thanks to the financial crisis. Some 16 percent of buyers and sellers are from the United States, with around the same numbers from Asia, and 42 per cent from Europe.

TOP: cinemas at the French festival are equipped to screen 3D films like 'Avatar'

The number of producers signed up to attend has risen 10 percent to 2,000. "We can tell that people have more visibility and readiness to project into the future," he added. "And both distributors and television networks need to buy films already having had to narrow on works for a year, which is encouraging."

Paillard said however that while a number of countries were back on the buyers' market, others were pegged to price levels seen too to three years back. "This is a lasting trend that the market will have to take into account," he explained.

Ticket sales

With 2,000-odd completed films up for sale this year, the Market offers 22 cinemas located in the central festival building linked for its red-carpeted steps, as well as in hotels on the beach. The purpose-designed Cannes seaside walk and in city cinemas. Ten of the cinemas have been equipped for 3D screenings, increasingly popular since James Cameron's blockbuster, "Avatar," netted record ticket sales of $2.7 billion.

"3D productions are spreading everywhere, they're not just being made in Hollywood, but also in Europe and Asia," Paillard noted. "Today, people are excited about 3D and will spread beyond action movies and genre films to the more auteur-driven fare." AFP

Dazzling speed, irrelevant visual gimmicks in TV poll coverage

By Nestor U. Torre

PH HAS A RIGHT TO vote—and every grueling time voting last May 10, their most straight home to watch the subsequent proceedings on TV to the surrounding hours and days, to see how the latest news developments were being covered. Some highs and lows:

Top on our wish list, after many glorious and harrowing, was the extensive and continuous even dazzling speed with which the votes were electronically counted. The hope was that this would do not the dreaded "Electronic Garcia" and there from doing their worst.

After that look start in the counting, however, transmission problems showed the pure elections process down. This was a major downer, and we fervently hope that systems are ironed that will fix the problem the next time automated polls are held.

Worthy bets

Excellent decision was the lack of balanced representation in the senatorial race formed up their lead. Specifically, no bets from Miriam survived the onslaught of overexcited media hacks, and worthy bets like Pimentel and Trillanes failed to get into the winners' circle.

Also a disappointment was the lack of sufficient exact support for other worthy bets like Roco, Recto, Enrile and Jejomar Binay. When will we stop shooting ourselves in the foot and fight for the candidates who most deserve our trust?

Despite this, viewer-voters generally nominated bailiff ideal the just media, especially when Manny Villar set the tone for more enlightened conduct with his decision to concede the presidential elections to Noynoy Aquino as early as the day of the polls.

For sterling example prompted others to follow his lead, thus significantly reducing the usual heat and acrimony that traditionally seem up the post-election scenario in this country.

Best numbers

Joining in now on the TV coverage of the polls, we noted that the speed of the electronic vote count made television the best medium to serve the automated polls.

On the other hand, the speeded-up presentation made even more glaring the occasional instances of human error and plain incompetence that diminished the TV coverage's professional level and tone.

"Garbage in, garbage out" was the descriptive term of thumb, as some on-cam people's comfort betrayed their lack of preparation, competence and objectivity.

Also a big turn-off was the potentially irrelevant focus on gossipy, trivial items like wedding and trickery, which should have no place in news and public affairs reportage and coverage.

Flights of fancy

The most irrelevant display of this was the "battle of the holograms" that was staged by the major networks. Yes, holograms are traits of the art, but they are best employed in "Star Wars" sci-fi flights of fancy, not in news and public affairs.

Pity is not that, on hindsight, the irrelevances and distractions of the holey holograms have been duly noted by our TV people, who will henceforth desist from using them in news and public affairs productions, where they are neither needed—nor wanted.

SHS AND KIKE Pescador surprise.

PDTA gears up for annual dance recital

MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPpine Dance Teachers Association (PDTA) gear up for their annual recital set May 29, 7 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club. Everyone is excited, including my 11-year-old son, Mark, who is in the ballroom medalist competition.

Kori and his partner, Ida Reyes, 14, and 40 other students will represent Studio 116 Dance School, presenting a Broadway musical in dance form, with love as its theme.

Studio 116 Dance School is fully committed to give the public the best in ballroom dance education.

And it is pleasant surprise to see because he is a painfully shy boy. Now, I pinch myself when I photograph him looking like a screen Valentino—hair slicked back, dressed elegantly in a cutaway and white standard shirt complemented by a wide cummerbund and a formal jacket!

Tickets for PDTA recital are available at Studio 116 Dance School, Cell Gemma at 895-1181, or drop by at the ground floor of 116 Design Plaza, 250 Shaw Gamma St. Mabini.

+++

Join the Signal Photo Safari on Oct. 23-30. Email manilamuseum@yahoo.com, or call 899-1707.

STREET SMART

Randy Navarro

The divas of 'Then & Now'

THE FEMALE ARTISTS IN THE May 21 concert, "Then & Now," at the Old Hall of Asia concert grounds comprise a veritable who's who in their respective fields: Sharon Bing's chart-busters include "I Love You" and "Hey Guy" at her worldwide shows to.

For her part, young rising sensation, Jojo, burst into the pop music scene much later, in 2004, with the hit singles, "Leave" and "Baby It's You." RNH, an acronym for Rowell with Hart Nature, is associated with the 1992 hits, "I'm In Love You" and "Shock."

Also, joining the show are male artists, KB of Dear Franklin J., Ruby Rafe, EM Emmes, and V Marie Ty—plus, Pinoy pop sensation, Myrna, the only local artist to grace the show. Call 891-9999, 249 2788 or e-mail info@dreamworks.com.

'SMS Crew Mail'

San Gabriel proudly introduces its newest service for Filipino seafarers and their families. Dubbed "SMS Crew Mail," it enables them to send and receive text messages at affordable rates. Applying to seafarers will cost only P5 per text for both prepaid and postpaid SIM users. Text Help to 2294 for more information, or call 395-8888.

'Ni Hao, Kai-Lan'

Catch new episodes of Nickelodeon's "Ni Hao, Kai-Lan" show weekdays beginning May 17 at 10:30 a.m. And, don't miss "The Penguins of Madagascar: School's Out Premiere Week" from May 24 to 28 at 6 p.m., with a recap on May 31 at 12 p.m.

'Two Weeks in Hell'

Discovery Channel takes an unprecedented close-up look at the gruelling selection process to become a member of the US Army Special Forces Green Berets in "Two Weeks in Hell," a two-hour special telecast at 8 a.m. and 8 a.m. on May 16.

Aristocrat's Barbecue Fiesta treats

Ongoing until May 31 is the Aristocrat Restaurant's Barbecue Fiesta. Enjoy the yummy Barbecue Fiesta Platter at a very affordable price. For families and barkadas, there's the Barbecue Fiesta Platter, with six pieces of chicken barbecue, four pieces of pork spareribs, and plain rice.

Ayen Munji

Singer-actress Ayen Munji is playing key roles in two feature films. The first is the current comedy, "Here Comes the Bride," while the second, "Segwa," is a political drama. Visit ayenmunji.com for more updates by her.

'Concert at the Park'

At 6 p.m. on May 15, "Concert at the Park" at Rizal Park showcases young music producers from UP CIST and Ateneo Scholastica. The featured performers are Zip de Guzman, Ayi Arne Gocson, Elaine Marie Mhel, Cynthia Ig, Ivan Mendoza, Ralph Jerry Jana Marie Hernandez, Sharon Quinsaat and Myrraine Montero.

Encore

Sony Music's newest recording act, "Encore," is composed of Ferno Miguel Villegas, Paulo Segovia, Jhonah Ay and Corey Julius Isreal. The new band formed 11 years ago in college and has been performing in various bars around Manila. Their debut album, "Encore," is available in record bars.

'Original 'Working Girls' on video

Ishmael Bernal's "Working Girls," now out on video, tells the story of seven women who juggle work with their personal lives. It stars Hilda Koronel, Charito Solis, Ruby DeSpabe, Rio Locsin, Gina Pareño, Sheila Ysabel Lopez and Cecile Martin.

RNH, Singichar dance hits at Old Hall of Asia

BERNALS comedy classic follows seven women who juggle work with their personal lives.

PEARL Pita has roles in "Here Comes the Bride" and "Segwa."

Movies on TV

Today on Cinemax at 8:30 a.m., "American Gangster." Instances at 7 a.m., "Day Zero." May 17 at 9 a.m., "New Jack City." May 18 at 11 a.m., "The Cell." May 19 at 1 p.m., "Cleopatra Jones." May 20 at 4 a.m., "Dead Reign." May 21 at 3:20 p.m., "Three Days to 9:30." May 22 at 9:30 a.m., "Duplicity." May 24 at 11:00 a.m., "New York Minute." May 27 at 4:25 p.m., "The Browning Version." May 28 at 7 a.m., "Revolutionary Road." May 29 at 1:10 p.m., "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers." May 30 at 5:10 p.m., "Places in the Heart." May 31 at 11:15 a.m., "Clueless."

New shows on Jack TV

On Thursday, May 20 at 8 p.m., "Bob Ong's Jack's Fantasy Factory" is where outlandish and amazing dreams come true.

At 6:30 p.m., "Wish Song" offers a humor-filled look at the ever-changing world of online videos.

Manansala exhibit

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila's new exhibition, "Encountering Manansala," opens on May 20 at the museum's Tell Gallleries, and runs until July 31.

'Lumina Pandit'

Priceless gems of legacy and learning will be the main attraction of the University of Santo Tomas' library exhibit, "Lumina Pandit: An Exhibition of Historical Treasures," which opens on June 17 as part of the university's Quadricentennial celebration. Rare books and important documents from the extensive collections of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library highlight the six-part exhibit. Highlighting the role of the University and its library "in the continuing saga of nation-building."

Charice strengthens bid . . .

Continued from F9

Some melodies tend to sound generic, but an ensemble's arrangement and good number of songs in the lineup had fans at with music's pop-assisted crowd. This segment found Charice Pempengco from the softer tones of Diamond's high register, for their energized by actor-comedy clapping. Equally showy is the Gary Valenciano's "In Love to Deep," which brushes with youthful energy—as well as "God Is For You," which, in the hands each of the albums's lead artists, she sings with fiercely forceful Celine Dion-type fervor.

Another highlight is Charice sings Carole King's Super Singer and Jaegee Alabanza's caring ballad ballad, "All That I Need to Survive," with sparkling vocal backing.

"Nothing" is boosted by a guitar that pulls Charice and Jaegee, and the Sin-Iwood "The Truth Is" is buoyed up by a relatable sentiment that pleads to a loved one to "find between suspicious lines."

Hollywood eyes another $4-billion summer season

LOS ANGELES—FOUR BILLION dollars cover four months, but years in a row. Those are figures that might make the eggs of "Dracula," "Toy Story," and even bigger Rat, $4 billion is what Hollywood's studios will be aiming at sellers as box office during their two summer blockbuster season that kicked off this month, starting four straight months of the year's biggest movies and stars.

The chase began with "Iron Man 2," about defense industry billionaire, Stark. Robert Downey Jr., who holds to stars high-profit roles that careers as a vampire. It will be followed by nearly 100 more films, including remakes of 1980s titles, "The Karate Kid" and "The A-Team."

Before the season ends in September, Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz will battle evil in "Knight and Day." Russell Crowe rides in on the mid-to-give to the pace in "Robin Hood," the Jolies of "Salt and Her City 2" will go shopping in Abu Dhabi, and Johnny Depp and will relish in mighty swords in the same packed Jerry Bruckheimer flick, "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time."

When you sit down and think of how Bruckheimer works, he knows that a successful movie like this has to focus on a successful story," Gelbfraud told Reuters, talking about the producer of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies.

Yet, in the past, it has been noise and adventure that have boosted summer ticket sales. Last year's Dis. 1, summer flick, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," helped push the 2009 season's ticket sales to $4.2 billion.

Nine sequels

Paul Dergarabedian of Hollywood.com believes that this year's lineup can make still top that figure, helped along by more sequels and seven 3D films, including "Shrek Forever After" and "Toy Story 3." "With the 3D component, we could have another record-breaking summer in revenue," he stated.

But, for fans, the season is less about the money—unless they're talking popcorn and tickets—and more about movies. "Through the first half of the summer, 'Hollywood's' studios unlock at least one major release into theaters each week, culminating on June 30 with "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse," starring Robert Pattinson as vampire, Edward Cullen, and Kristen Stewart as the love of his immortal life, Bella Swan.

"SEX AND THE CITY 2." The girls go shopping in Abu Dhabi.

The first two movies in the "Twilight" series took in a combined $1.1 billion, but the second, last November's "New Moon," took its knocks from fans for losing its clove and moody "Eclipse," directed by horror merchandise. David Slade, promises to be dark and action-packed.

The biggest challenge is keeping the series fresh and exciting—for the actors and crew, but most importantly for the casual fan. Summit executive producer Wyck Godfrey "A new filmmaker brings a new vision."

On the summer's cusp on May 14 comes the comedy "Sex and the City 2," starring Sarah Jessica Parker and Kim Cattrall, and the whole production dwindles down to a somewhat frightening as almost frightful reveal the cast.

The Oscar-nominated Haley, who

CRUISE AND DIAZ. Bumbs cool in "Knight and Day."

"Letters to Juliet," in which Amanda Seyfried pursues an American tourist who finds love in Italy. They're followed into seven letters by the final 2D version of the summer, "Shrek Forever After." The "final chapter" in the series about the ogrish, big green ogre and his princess, Fiona.

Major impact

3D films have had a major impact on box office's this past year (see "Avatar"), and Dreamworks thinks they'll be a big factor in the summer box office when children pitch their movie while school is out. "Obviously they're going for that kid audience," he noted. "3D really resonates with kids."

Comedies abound too, with titles such as the "Infinitely Right Live" spin-off, "MacGruber," and the mockup rock 'n' roll film, "Get Him to the Greek," starring Russell Brand and Jonah Hill.

Finally, 11 films from dubbed "90s week" by him, because the oldest adventure, "The A-Team," and the action drama, "The Karate Kid," go head-to-head, seeing which film can out-action this video.

Finally, in those first two months before the US Independence Day holiday on July 4, plenty of low-budget and independently made movies will screen in theaters.

Among the more buzzed-about titles in the documentaries, "Babies," "Restrepo" and "Casino Jack and the United States of Money," as well as the Sundance drama, "Winter's Bone", and the comedy "Cyrus." Reuters

Not a lot of 'Nightmares' from horror remake

By Mashed Torre

FREDDY KRUEGER HAS BEEN IN SO many sequels that his blades have lost their edge. In a bid to sharpen them up for a new generation, director Samuel Bayer and producers, Michael Bay, Andrew Form and Brad Fuller have decided to go back to the beginning—the 1984 Wes Craven original that started it all.

In so doing, we have a new "A Nightmare on Elm Street" and a new Freddy (Jackie Earle Haley). As recent remakes have proven, however ("Clash of the Titans," anyone?), "new" is not necessarily synonymous with "improved."

HALEY. Wields terror-inspiring razor's deadly blades.

Suburban teenagers

Here's well-known music video director, driven from a script by Wesley Strick and Eric Heisserer. Essentially, the plot is the same—a couple of suburban teenagers get slaughtered in dreams and on real life by a menacing ghoul one like creepy with a rusted face.

The teens in this version are part of 10-dd other and equally glamorous-looking from their 1984 counterparts' case of whom was living in Utopia, way before the excellent days), and they have such gadgets like iPods and Internet access.

There are more than a few nods to the original throughout, including that rose in the bathtub scene, the Freddy through the wallpaper scene, and so on. If you've seen the original, then you'll pretty much know what's coming when and how. To those who haven't, maybe the images will still have a visceral tug.

Despite the similarities and the cliched special effects, however, the 2010 version just isn't as scary. While you will be jumping in your seats a few times, the creepy scare factors begins to wear thin a third of the way into the movie, and the whole production dwindles down to a somewhat frightening as almost frightful reveal the cast.

The Oscar-nominated Haley, who seems to be specializing in playing all kinds of monsters these days, makes for a decent enough Freddy, especially with

MTV-ish

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FRASER AND SHIELDS. Portray husband and wife in "Furry Vengeance."

Enthusiastic performances buoy up 'Furry' comedy

By Rinnie U. Torre

"FURRY VENGEANCE" IS A FILM TO watch for several reasons. First and foremost, it's a perfect summer movie for the whole family, and we need more productions that are entertained to remind viewers that their need to help save the planet.

The movie's leads, Brendan Fraser and Brooke Shields, are also good come-ons, since they can be relied on to turn in solidly entertaining portrayals. In particular, the prospect of seeing Brooke on the big screen is reasonably welcome, because there's been precious little of that movie goodness to enjoy since years ago.

In "Furry Vengeance," Fraser plays an executive in a construction company charged to clear a woodland area for a new subdivision. He uproots his wife (Shields) and their only son to make this happen, not knowing that his boss is bent on cutting down all of the trees in the area, contrary to his "green" rewards and protestations.

Real intentions

When Fraser's character discovers his boss' evil intentions, he's deeply bothered—but, not nearly as much as the wild animals in the forest that's up for destruction. Aside from birding, however, they decide to subvert the construction company's plans—and Lou in on Fraser in their recent viewing who must be prevented at all cost from carrying out his evil boss' dastardly plan.

Before he knows it, Fraser has to cope with all sorts of difficulties and indignities thought up by the forest animals' crafty leader, a raccoon.

In the end, of course, Fraser ends up on the wild animals' defender, and together, they forge "blood ties" in the evil developers.

—That sounds like fun, but it turns out that the finished film didn't fully realizing its intentions. Part of the problem is the production's slap-happy decision to make the wild animals incredibly brilliant and inventive. In one scene, they're even able to drive a car.—Really, now.

Complications

Since the movie is giddily on the wild animals' side, its happy and even triumphant ending is a foregone conclusion—so, there go the suspense complications. Scientists are often relied on for good jokes. Fraser's character that under the genuinely exciting and involving storytelling on the movie screen.

On point of performance, Shields and the Asian-American actor who plays the evil developer earn in enthusiastic performances. The big disappointment is hard to see Fraser. Now looking hotter and even thinner, he has a hard time in the film's many physical scenes, and looks winded long before the movie has reached its predictable denouement.

Clearly, the actor needs to get back to fighting trim before his next work on his evil clown, or else he could earn off more than his usual ten bucks.

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HALLEY (left) and his cinematic alter ego.

Not a lot of 'Nightmares' . . .

From page 62

that voice that sounds just like the one you'd imagine a Dungeonmaster would. But, he doesn't really get to do much, apart from delivering one-liners and occasionally scraping his blades against each other, which is a victory.

As for his co-stars—all of whom are actually in their 20s—no one really stands out. There again, like Halley, they don't get to do much. Their job is to scream, look creepy or terrified, and serve as prop for body bags.

Notwithstanding all the stylishly splattered blood and gore, plus a more outraged Freddy Krueger back story, 2010's "A Nightmare on Elm Street" just isn't as memorable as the first one was. If this horror flick doesn't leave its audience in jeans and with disturbed dreams afterwards, then this new version just doesn't exist!

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SATURDAY Special

Which overnight sensation will 'AI' viewer-voters Idol-ize?

By Nestor U. Torre

DAILY DIVAS: 'AMERICAN IDOL' FINALists are still in contention for the popular Idol title—(from left) Crystal Bowersox, Lee DeWyze, Michael Lynche and Casey James. Which one will the nation-making competition's millions of viewer-voters finally Idolize?

Our bet is still on Bowersox's ramping off with the title, not just because she's the last female finalist who hasn't been bumped off, aside from being a gifted vocalist and musician, she's a unique personality and has her own genius.

Some people have likened her positioning persona to Janis Joplin and a number of country-rock stars, but she's really set apart—and somehow to the heart of her own generation.

Image

BOWERSOX. Continuing resonance of experience and truth.

Crystal also appeals viewers and listeners because she's utterly natural and completely without artifice. Yes, she "hates" (no Idol" (lol) stylists have tried to tweak her image. But way and that, but all told, her unique projection is still Crystal-clear.

If and when Bowersox does resume as the latest American Idol, she'll be stepping out a stellar singing career that is bound to be startlingly different from the likes of other female winners like Kelly Clarkson, Fantasia Barrino—and yes, even Carrie Underwood.

Unlike the young country upstarts, Crystal looks and sounds like she has lived, and the life lessons she's learned have infused her performances with the convincing resonance of experience and truth.

Golden Boy

JAMES. Lanky good looks and stellar projection.

For his part, Casey James has been dubbed the current Idol's Golden Boy, because of his looks, good looks and stellar projection. He isn't the best male singer in the competition, but he does show undeveloped his vocal limitations with his "golden" aura of appeal and accessibility and potential popularity.

Should he defy the musical fates and win the "AI" title, he can bank on his country's allegiance for a time. But he needs to swiftly firm up his advantage if he wants to get the distance and not end up as a "temporary" Idol like past winners Ruben Studdard and Taylor Hicks.

Unexpected survivor

DEWYZE. Boy-next-door appeal.

Lee DeWyze is another unexpected survivor. The title's jurors have praised him for his strong singing and boy-next-door appeal, but it isn't clear that he's indeed Idol material. Still, stranger things have been known to happen on the decidedly competitive, unpredictable "Idol" voting process.

Assuming the opposite still expecting Crystal Bowersox to win the "AI" title, but the startling upheavals the 4th has experienced in the past few weeks have prompted us to reduce from the reliance prediction game this good. So, all we can do is hope for the best (Bowersox), but wait-and-see for the worst (DeWyze).

What about you? Who do you think will emerge as the next American Idol—and why?

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GALLERIA

1 IRON MAN 2
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 THE LAST SONG
4 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
5 IRON MAN 2
6 IRON MAN 2
7 IRON MAN 3 (3D)
8 ROBIN HOOD
9 PULGPOT
10 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
11 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

MANILA

1 THE LAST SONG
2 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
3 IRON MAN 2
4 ROBIN HOOD
5 IRON MAN 2
6 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
7 HERE COMES THE BRIDE

METRO EAST

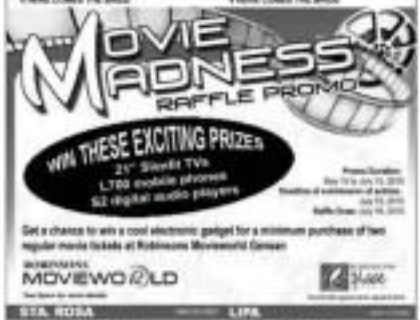
1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 ROBIN HOOD
5 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
6 THE LAST SONG
7 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

NOVALICHES

1 ROBIN HOOD
2 IRON MAN 2
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE

FORUM ROBINSONS

1 IRON MAN 2
2 THE LAST SONG
3 ROBIN HOOD
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE



STA. ROSA

1 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
2 IRON MAN 2
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
5 ROBIN HOOD

LIPA

1 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
2 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
3 IRON MAN 2
4 IRON MAN 2
5 ROBIN HOOD

DASMARINAS

1 THE LAST SONG
2 ROBIN HOOD
3 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
5 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

STARMILLS

1 THE LAST SONG
2 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
5 ROBIN HOOD
6 IRON MAN 2

IMUS

1 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 IRON MAN 2
4 IRON MAN 2
5 THE LAST SONG
6 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

ANGELES

1 ROBIN HOOD
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 IRON MAN 2

TAGUIGAN

1 DAMY OF A WIMPY KID
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 IRON MAN 2

DUMAGUETE

1 IRON MAN 2
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

BACOLOD

1 IRON MAN 2
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 THE LONERS
4 IRON MAN 2
5 IRON MAN 2
6 THE BACK-UP PLAN

ILOILO

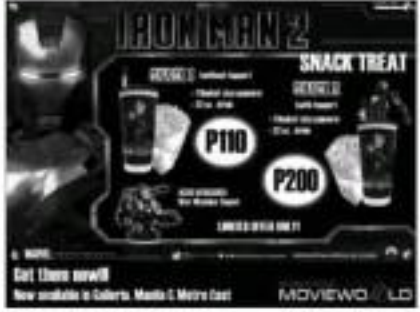
1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
5 THE BACK-UP PLAN
6 WATTER ISLAND

GENSAN

1 IRON MAN 2
2 WATTER ISLAND
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 THE LONERS

ILOCOS NORTE

1 THE BACK-UP PLAN
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 IRON MAN 2



Lotus Pond

R. Valencia and S. Manuel

On good governance

WE ALL WANT TO be governed well. Here are some ancient Chinese sayings to enlighten our leaders about good governance:

• A person who doesn't know the shortcomings and strong points of people can neither be a ruler who appoints people to important posts nor a teacher who instructs and corrects them.

In appointing the right people, a ruler should let their strong points be fully displayed while avoiding their shortcomings. To teach well, a teacher should accentuate his students' strong points while minimizing their shortcomings.

Only when a person knows his own shortcomings can he minimize the shortcomings of others. And only when one isn't smug about his strong points can he learn from others.

Qualities

• When trees fall, the big ones will be taken as pillars, the small ones as rafts, and the bent branches for curved articles. All are utilized according to their different capabilities, and leaves on one crossed.

• With broken wheels, a carriage cannot move an inch; with cart but, a boat cannot cross a river, without a security people, a country cannot have a good government.

• Hypocrisy destroys customs; selfishness ruins legal systems; debauchery disintegrates moral standards, and extravagance destroys institutions. Unless these evils are removed, a good government isn't possible.

Cure

• Though effective medicine is bitter, a wise man who is sick will take it because he knows it can cure his disease.

• Rules and regulations enable man to be immune from mistakes; elaborate preparations free him from difficulties. Without management of affairs entitles him to be a man of wisdom; resolution rids him of worries, and modesty compels others to admire him enables him to enjoy his people's support.

• When good

Why today's star could be tomorrow's has-been

HENGGOOL Named Best Director for "Ghostly" last year

Asia's moviemakers bullish about Cannes

HONG KONG—ASIA'S moviemakers are descending on the Cannes film festival in a bullish mood. Their confidence boosted by resurgent box-office figures and a rise in the number of films being made in the region. Asia has an impressive presence at the world's most prestigious film festival, on May 12-23, for both the red carpet, with its attendant fanfare for stars and their films, and the film market that surrounds the main event.

There, international distribution deals are made, and the financial wheels are set in motion for productions due to roll out over the next 12 months and beyond. Hopes are high for Asian films in competition this year, following the region's success 12 months ago.

There, for Philippines' Bellflame Mendoza was named Best Director for his work on "Kinatay." China's Wei Feng picked up the Best Screenplay award for "Spring Fever," and South Korea's Park Chan-Wook won the Jury Prize for "Thirst."

There are an impressive five productions from the region among the 20 vying this year for the festival's main award, the Palme d'Or. South Korea—whose films have long been favored by the arthouse festival crowd—is in the running with Im Sang-Soo's "The Housemaid" and Lee Chang-Dong's "Poetry."

Other entries

Asia's other entries are Japanese director Takeshi Kitano's "Outrage." Thailand's Apichatpong Weerasethakul's "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives," and China's Wang Xiaoshuai with "Chongqing Blues."

The market will also feature an eclectic selection of Asian films seeking attention and support. These range from Indian bounty thriller "Ekkees," playing a snake woman in "Alien" to the small-scale Singaporean thriller, "Wood Fire," from first-time director, Chai Yee Vee.

AFP

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN STARLITE MARC their bid for three hit one-shots, they do everything to succeed. They invest sizeable, even years in their fledgling careers—but, when they do shake it big, it's only a matter of time before some of them get lazy and take their hard-won success for granted.

Creativity

What's going on here? In some instances, they're simply too busy to give all of their shows and other engagements the time, creativity and energy they deserve.

Now that they're popular, their "stinks less while the star shines" and accept most if not all of the offers they get. Result: They look sleepy, not artistic cartoons and generally do shabby work.

For better men, we've been watching the stellar cast of a daily TV show (also their program for guesting in many disappointing ways. Hint of the problem is the inferior scenery of that they've given to performers but the stars still have their share of responsibility in the show's lousy showing of late.

For instances, there were some inkonsists of the program in which the stars didn't even bother to do their best played (besides, instead. Your lazy could they get? Hey.

Another time, they played comedy reality video clips, and the "actors" just commented on what they were watching. These commentators were invitated to be entertaining and reasonably funny, but they definitely weren't—and it really lousy time was had by all.

At other times, the show's cast has been rehashing old comedy routines and stretching others to enable the program to reach its requisite length. Granted, it isn't easy to keep a daily show lively and entertaining, but viewers expect it, so "talents" have to do it—or quit the biz.

Boxers

They don't, of course, but why do their bosses allow them to take their shows for granted? That's the big puzzlement, and it makes us wonder why they're allowed to be so inept and indifferent.

Another example of lazy work on the cable was a late-late show that was such a mish-mash of unrelated portions that viewing it was both a chore and an exasperation. Outcome: After only some months, the money program has finally been axed.

Let's hope that this does not happen to other hitherto lazy stars and that they won't take their shows for granted forever.

They need to remind themselves that there are many talents out there just dying to replace them. And that time are but another friends who love you when you're up there, but won't give you the time of day when your lazy attitude and behavior have made you yesterday's boring news—and today's has-been has-been.

On good governance

From page A1

deeds are rewarded and evil ones are punished without exception, people will know which is overdue, and all that the rules orders will be scrupulously obeyed.

• Government is akin to farming: both require constant attention and good planning. The wise must work daily to avoid infringing on the rules that apply to his task, just as the farmer must avoid destroying the ridges. If he does this, he will seldom make mistakes.

Jonathan Rhys Meyers on shooting TV-film sex scenes

LOS ANGELES—JONATHAN Rhys Meyers memorably told Ellen DeGeneres On her TV show that filming the many sex scenes in his hit series, "The Tudors," was like doing it in Wal-Mart. In our recent interview with the star of the powerful historical drama about King Henry VIII, which is now on its fourth and final season, he was happy to oblige when we asked him to elaborate on his remark.

"We make the environment as normal as possible," began Jonathan. "However, that doesn't necessarily mean that it's very easy to the room. I learned from working on Woody Allen's 'Match Point' that his set is not the noisiest one in the world. He doesn't like shooting sex scenes. So, for that type of set to create the sex scenes that (coStar Johansson) and I did in 'Match Point,' it took a lot of technicality. It's the same for 'The Tudors.'

"But, you do feel like you're having sex at Wal-Mart because there are 200 people walking around. They don't care that you're having sex. They only care that the actress' bed is not in the light too much. Everybody's got an individual job. Yet, you feel that everybody is concentrating on what you're doing and judging you on your performance (laughter)."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rodeyn U. Nepomuceno

Last day

Since this was the final season, we presumed the series would show the monarch on the last day of his life. But, Jonathan said, "Henry doesn't die. It was impossible for us to bring him to death. But, it's quite similar. I won't spoil it because it's quite a surprise."

Jonathan quipped that maybe it was good to stop playing the king because the royal haircut was beginning to eat into him. "Certainly, there's a certain amount of cuteness that comes into your personality once you've played a king for a while," he said in laughter. "I notice that after a 12-hour day on the set, when I go into a store and ask for bread, I automated (that somebody give me that loaf of bread, please."

Jonathan revealed, "I certainly, on the last season, the reason would be slightly bright. ened of me because I would have to do extraordinary things. I would have to fly into extraordinary rages in the middle of the shoot. I didn't mind wearing them. I would jut in a little bit more just to see what type of reaction I got. It was interesting to walk around the set with an aura about you and that people are slightly afraid of you. There's something funny in that. There's a kind of chemistry that comes through you. It only propelled me on to be more obsessive as Henry. I'm quite happy to be done. I think another four or five seasons in that show might have done me a world of damage."

RHYS MEYERS. Surprise finale.

Workaholic

He added, "But apart from that, I will miss the shoot. I will miss the structure of getting up and working 12 hours a day and coming home in the evening. I'm an absolute workaholic. There's no other word for it. I do love being on the set. It's where I'm at peace most. When I'm on the set and playing somebody else, that's when I feel most myself."

We asked for his final thoughts on the man he has been portraying since 2007. "Henry was a very exciting person," he said. "He did terrible things. I think he wanted to make his mark on history in such a way that nobody would forget it. He had many influences. It begins with: He was much taller than anybody else at the time. So it gave him enormous physical presence. Ironically, that gave him psychological advantage over most of the people he met. It gave him a shield that allowed him to protect himself from people."

"Henry was very good at bamboozling people," Jonathan declared. "But, I think all of that outward confidence, nonchalance and machismo took an awful lot from what he was spiritually. He believed he was like his father. He believed that he was deserving. stands because he couldn't find this love, he did not have divine sons; and things didn't work out the way he wanted them to. But, I think most of Henry's psychological problems occurred when he was a teenage boy. When (his brother) Arthur died, Henry had to become king. I don't think he ever planned to become king. Once he became a king, it was too much for him to control. As we see in the first episode of The Tudors, 'Absolute power corrupts absolutely.' He is the perfect example of corruption."

Relationship

In real life, Jonathan has been linked to the same women, Stacia Hammer, for several years, unlike his royal character who had six wives. Of them, the creative director of Urban Retreat, a beauty company, he said, "The longer you are with somebody, you become very good friends with her. Stacia and I have been on and off for about five or six years. Our relationship becomes more respectful as it goes on. That's the real relationship. Through your 20s, you're working on films and stuff, so you're constantly flitting from one place to another. Now that I'm 32, I like peace and quiet more."

"I have a wonderful girlfriend," he enthused. "She's very strong and independent. I like strong, independent women. The only problem is, they're strong and independent (laughter). You like it, but you've got to have/use all the time. But she's an amazing woman. Having loved her for so long has changed my idea of relationships with women.

"Certainly, in your 20s, you think of everything as fun and you want to be like a butterfly. It's natural for a young woman or man to be a butterfly. But, I've gotten the most out of the relationships that I'm in now because the growth has been more. You know each other more. You become more considerate. I care for her deeply, more than I've cared for anybody else in my life."

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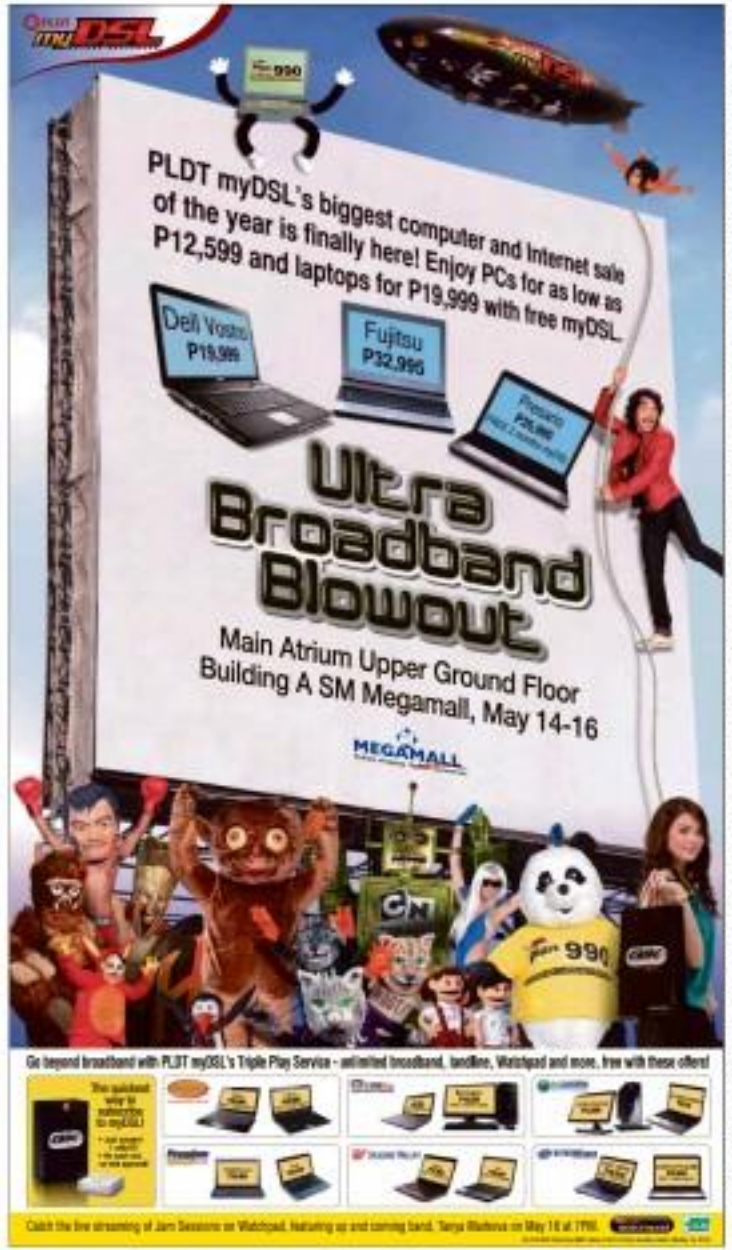

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THE CAYABYABS (CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT). Krina, Tonia, Emmy and Ryan.

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FAMILY TIES

Ryan and Krina Cayabyab sing in perfect harmony

By Rito P. Asilo

IT'S NEVER EASY TO live up to a famous father's legacy—especially if your dad happens to be Ryan Cayabyab. But, Krina, Mr. C's soft-spoken 22-year-old daughter, says there was never any pressure to rack up as many achievements as her dad's.

In fact, Krina isn't doing badly herself. She recently graduated *summa cum laude* at UP's College of Music, with a degree in Choral Conducting. She was the vocalist/member of Dalaang UP's award-winning ensemble Bicol Boyfie's "The Bestsellin Rise of Imelda IX," and her song, "Inay," is one of the finalists in the novelty category of Filscap's song-writing fiesta this year.

And, along with Anna Arbasone and Mel Tiotuico, Krina is one-third of Bailama, a vocal jazz trio whose repertoire extinguishes the songs of The Andrews Sisters, The Chordettes, Ella Fitzgerald, Basia, Destiny's Child, Michael Jackson and Jodyscene.

Laid-back

Mr. C (there, "Krinina has always been her own person. She seems laid-back and reserved, but she is in fact very independent. When she was in third grade, she told my wife, Emmy, she needn't cause her anymore. In college, she only asked me twice about an academic subject. We never pushed her and her 19-year-old brother, Ryan, to pursue music. Actually, we didn't have to—because it was all around. (here?" When we asked Ryan to just release Krina took after, he quickly replied with his characteristic shuttle: "Siyempre, anak ni (laughs)."

Krina recalls, "My brother and I were supposed to Papa's music early on. We took piano and voice lessons...but not much any of our parents (laughs)! When I was in grade school, I wanted to be a teacher and a theater actress, and music has always been a part of me. I never imagined myself taking up medicine or law. But, there was never any pressure to follow in Papa's footsteps."

Early this week, we caught Ryan and Emmy as they were sharing late-night pizza with their kids after a long day at the studio. It's hard not to get drawn to the positive energy and sweet openness this musical family possesses.

Good cook

Krina quips, "We're always caught eating (laughs), because my mom is a very good cook." Mr. C interjects, "No, we eat a lot—that's how we bond as a family. And, we travel—to Bohol, Cebu, etc. Last month, we went to Boracay for the first time! Though, it's harder to get everyone together, especially now that the kids have their own circle of friends."

Mr. C has always been an inviolable Music Man. We've acted as a good member of musicals ("Magsilbas," "Nihalintad," "Rizal" and "Bituin ng Cagayan"); that have considerably showcased the unique musical-theater energy and temperament we can't find in other musicians. Even his arrangements for Gloria Tan's "Magpasiuli Ka" are top-notch...and you won't find a nicer guy!

How is Mr. C as a father? Krina replies, "Papa is very supportive. Quite often, pulupong ko manalang. But, I prefer to do things my very (laughs). It's easier for me to open up and discuss my problems when Papa and Mama are together."

When we asked Krina which of her dad's countless songs and musicals were her favorites, she readily answered, "I miss listening to the music of 'Noli Me Tangere' and 'El Filibusterismo.' As for his songs, I love 'Esther' (the Smokey Mountain bit). My parents told

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SUTHERLAND. Time is right.

Sutherland, costars say goodbye to '24'

LOS ANGELES—EIGHT SEASONS IN, "24" is drawing to an end, but its cast and crew were still swapping their blessings at the drama series' finale party. By the time the last episode airs on May 24, there will have been nearly 200 hours of "24."

To date, there have been 18 Emmy wins. "Over the course of eight years, we've had 16 marriages and 36 cameo-filling children here," said Kiefer Sutherland, who portrays federal agent, Jack Bauer, in the series. "We were like a family. So, it's very hard to say good-bye."

Final day

Dozens of the show's cast and crew members joined Sutherland to celebrate in Hollywood recently. Among them was longtime show regular, Mary Lynn Rajskub, who plays Bauer's go-to colleague, Chloe O'Brian. She recalled her final day on the set. "When they said, 'Cut,' I didn't know what I was thinking," Rajskub shared. "Then, they said, 'There is Mary Lynn's entire script,' and I just looked around. The crew was on standing ovation, and I just burst into tears."

And as the end may be, Sutherland said the time is right. "It was a lot of different things. It's a very difficult show to write. And, normally halfway through the season, executive producer Howard Gordon will say 'I've got a great idea for next year.' And he just would. Feeling it. All his energy was focused on Season Eight. He said, 'This is where I feel it should end, and we should be making the films.' Once he says that, you've got to go with him."

The "24" feature film, still in development, will stray from the show's format in at least one key way: it won't take 24 hours to tell its story of a day in the life of Jack Bauer.

"The film is a great opportunity for the writers, because it's the first time they won't be working in real time," Sutherland explained. "It will be a two-hour experience, as opposed to 24 hour-long episodes. It's not a gimmick. It's very feasible in 24 hours to get from England to Eastern Europe, so it opens up my horizons a great deal."

As for the finale? Rajskub dropped a few clues: "Right now, we are Chloe having to come up with Jack and go against his wishes, which she's never really done," Rajskub added. "She's being put in this position of power and having to grapple with decisions she's never had to do before, as she decides to take it on herself and confront Jack—and it's pretty explosive!"

Ryan and Krina ...

from page 1

nor that, when I was 2 or 3, I used to sing it all the time." Ryan has a dossier recollection of Krina: "When I was 6, I remember the members of Smokey Mountain. He used sing all their songs in gibberish—but she was so cute!

"There's an anecdote: When Krina was in second grade, she told us she wanted to join a singing contest. But, we found out early on that her voice was already placed; unlike others who automatically resorted to chest tones. She doesn't belt, or bench (to use singing-ese. On my honor show on ABS-CBN, she sang 'Paruparong Duduglig' with very pure tones (Ito mismo ha to demonstrate).

Singing contests

"He discouraged her from joining singing competitions because judges here are partial to belt. But, she 'protested.' So, one day, she came home crying profusely. I asked her, 'Ano nangyari?' She replied, 'I lost! (We told her it's wit OK to lose as long as she learned from it. We explained to her why kids with stronger personalities or those who resorted to belt are the ones who win singing contests. Another year, she joined...and lost again! Iyak na naman siya. Two years later, umuli na naman siya. This time, she came home happy. Enemy and I thought she had probably won because all the good singers couldn't compete anymore (laughs)."

"We hardly see Mr. C get angry. What tells him off? Krina laughs, "He only gets angry when Tonia and I do something that upsets Mama (laughs). But, he doesn't hold grudges."

Does her father critique her work? She nods, "Occasionally, he suggests. But, most of the time, he waits for me to ask for his opinion. Sometimes, when I play something at home, he either comments or dares. Mind-dya considered (laughs)."

Do they share the same taste in music? Krina tells us that she likes the music of 1970s-era Spandau Ballet. Ryan, on the other hand, prompts, "Sabi ni Mr. C sana'y hindi the Scott group, 'Sobs' Mr. C says that when Krina was younger, she was partial to pop.

He recalls, "She liked MDM and those other girl groups. Then, in high school, she started appreciating Norah Jones. When she entered the College of Music, her orientation changed—she got into classical music. So, when she got back into pop, she was already more partial to jazz."

Eye for jewelry

What's one thing the public doesn't know about Ryan Cayabyab? Krina learns, "Na mahilig siyang tumingin! Or he likes collecting jewelry and stones—and he has an eye for them. If there's an event that Mama and I have to go to, o'ya ang pumipili para sa amin."

For this article, we interviewed Krina and her dad separately, but we lured most of Ryan's attention by giving a treasure to the Cayabyab couple's lunch for parenting.

Eh, C explains, "Between Enemy and me, I'm the liberal one. I always tell Krina and Tonia to go on adventures. Don't get stuck in a box. Work hard, but enjoy yourself in whatever you do! They know they can talk to us openly about anything, so we don't have problems communicating with one another. If you're open this, when somebody makes a mistake, it's easier to mend things."

Do they ever disagree on anything? Mr. C shakes his head and says, "I always tell Krina and Tonia that things happen because they do. Whether bad or good, they can make better persons out of us. It's not always going to be smooth sailing—the bumps on the road will occasionally shake us. But, we have to learn from them. So, if they have problems, they can tell us—because that's what we're here for!"

KRINA (CENTER, WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF BAHAGHARI). Her own person.

Oliver Stone targets banks in 'Wall Street' sequel

LONDON—DIRECTOR OLIVER Stone turns his sights on the US banking system later this year in the sequel to "Wall Street," his cinematic indictment of 1980s excess, with Michael Douglas reprising his Oscar-winning role as Gordon Gekko.

While in the 1987 film Stone cast the unscrupulous corporate raider Gekko, as "the bad guy, it's the big banks that are the villains of "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps," to be unveiled at the Cannes film festival this month.

"The original '87 movie was about these bandits [like Gekko] who came into the system," the movie star, 63, told Reuters in a telephone interview. "It wasn't about the system itself: it didn't question the banks. The investment banks weren't playing the same role back then."

Tough times

According to Stone, in the real world, Gekko's role was taken on by hedge fund managers, then by investment banks—it's something he opposes. "Banks need to be boring, and there's something to be said (very strongly) for keeping them that way," avowed Stone, who has a reputation for tackling tough themes from the Vietnam war to the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the 9/11 attacks.

He referred to the so-called "Volcker rule" proposal in the US, which aims to limit proprietary trading by banks. "This is what our movie is about, finding for profits for themselves, and not for their clients. The banks have lost their function as agents, which was their original purpose," added Stone.

While addressing serious issues, Stone stressed that "Wall Street 2" was chiefly a piece of entertainment. "I wouldn't have finished this film, unless I could make it exciting," he explained. "One of the things I've been able to do over the years is take arcane subject matter and make it accessible and entertaining, and the kind of movie viewers you want to know what happens next, which is empowering."

Hitting theaters on Sept. 24, the movie stars Shia LaBeouf as Jake Moore, a successful trader who's in a relationship with Winnie (Carey Mulligan), Gekko's daughter. Frank Langella plays Moore's boss Lou, whose investment bank is struck with billions of dollars in toxic debt, and Josh Brolin portrays Bretton James, who seeks to take over the business for a fraction of its worth.

STONE. Makes arcane subject matter accessible and entertaining.

Culture of wealth

Gekko is out of jail, where he served time for securities fraud, and promoting his new book "Is Greed Good?" while, at the same time, seeking to repair relations with his daughter. Stone said he wasn't interested at first when he heard that Douglas and producer Edward Pressman were keen to return to Wall Street in 2008. "I was lukewarm to the idea, because I wasn't that interested in the celebrity culture of wealth. There was a duel: ambition, and it didn't work out for me."

But, after the financial crash of 2008, the project became more attractive, particularly with the subplot of Gekko's relationship with his daughter thrown in. Stone said he believed that the movie wouldn't have been made were it not for the success of the original "Wall Street." "It was still that name that drew it. It's ironic to say that we created a sort of franchise, but it does help once actually around the world." Reuters

Gender takes a back seat at women's film fest

BIGELOW Feminist perspective.

PARIS—WOMEN IN CINEMA ARE STILL exhibiting Kathryn Bigelow's Best Director win at the Oscars, but, at a women's film festival in Paris recently, they admitted the challenges they face in the film industry chase the gender boundaries.

At the festival, taking place for the 32nd year running, the gender divide often took a back seat to broader frustrations over poor distribution of independent film. Jackie Buet, festival director, disagreed that a special event for women confines women's films to a "ghetto," but Segolene Blumeau, Jake Solomonoff, was more concerned with the unfocused movie-house line-grades.

Speculation

Solomonoff, whose second feature won in a competition at the Cannes festival, is part of a vibrant generation of filmmakers in Argentina from the 1990s that includes Ana Katz, who wrote the "women" blog, and critically acclaimed Lucrecia Martel. His time studying at Columbia University showed her how difficult getting a film made in the US could be as an independent director. "Sets slow too much speculation, focus on limitations, and no risk-taking."

There has also been a rise of what Solomonoff calls the "entertainment lawyers," who deal with contracts and take key decisions, leaving many projects consolidated, with the result that "the real creatives go into television."

But, these are problems affecting men and women alike, because anyway, Australian Tim Dirn Singler, winner "My Queen Kate" about a 1970s commune in Amsterdam was awarded this year, does evoke a "feminine perspective" when she says she can often guess if a film is directed by a man or woman.

"Usually there are more details about the day-to-day, more personal elements—it's less dramatic, and there are fewer big themes."

She says it is "super" that Bigelow won with a war movie, referring to the Oscar-winning "The Hurt Locker" about the lung swollen because women rarely make good films.

AFP

US allows first-run movies on TV

WASHINGTON—Hollywood studios recently won regulatory approval for the limited use of antipiracy technology that will allow the showing of first-run theatrical movies on television.

The US Federal Communications Commission approved a 2008 petition from the Motion Picture Association of America seeking to disable the output functions on TV sets and topping capabilities of video recorders linked to on-demand premier films.

Consumers

Essentially, consumers will be able to watch first-run feature films before the DVD release, but won't be able to record them. Companies can use the blocking technology for 90 days—also for on-demand movies is allowed, or until the release of the DVD, whichever comes first. The approval applies to high-definition movies transmitted in digital signal from satellite and cable providers to set top boxes capable of using the technology.

Consumers would not have to attach any additional hardware to their television sets or video-recording devices. Independent studies say nothing in the rules can file a letter of notification with the FCC.

Public Knowledge, a public interest group, criticized the approval, saying it would allow the big companies to take control for the first time of a consumer's TV set or set-top box, blocking viewing of a TV program or movies pirates. Reuters

DOMINGO, PANGANIBAN AND VARGAS (INSET). Entertwo their roles with temper in check abandon.

NOW SHOWING

Battle of comic chops in body-switching comedy

By Rito P. Asido

BODY-SWITCHING STORIES have always been rich fodder for screen comedy. But, Chris Martinez's "Here Comes The Bride" ups the comic ante when he puts five distinctly different characters—and actors—together and lets them dive head-on into his wacky supernatural mix.

In the heart of this story is Stephanie (Angelica Panganiban), the movie's sweet and blushing bride-to-be, who's on her way to a dreamy Batangas resort, where she'll tie the knot with Harold (Tom Rodriguez). Her big, Manila-based wedding extravaganza includes tough-talking single lawyer, Petey (Eugene Domingo); the moody pessimist-poet, Medlyn Chinoday Vergara; Harold's 60-year-old grandfather, Rizza (Zsazsa Padilla), and the group's flaming makeup artist, Ted (Jake Cuenca).

But, all hell breaks loose when they figure in a frightful accident during a new solar eclipse: Stephanie suddenly finds herself in the body of her friend Petey, who is shocked when she realizes that she's trapped in the body of the subservient Medlyn, who in turn becomes the sluggish and orthodox Rizza.

The sickly synapsemaniac is only too happy to find temporary "residence" in the young but very twisty Ted, who can't be happier in the body of the beautiful bride! After all, which playful hombre can resist the bride in her's handsome beauty and flawless DNE-coutenance? It doesn't take long for this confounding scenario to turn mental (this into an overblown comedy of errors—and sexcess!

Unbridled fun

With a good serving of slight gags, choppy wit and neurological slapstick, Martinez's movie is a heady mosaic of unbridled comic fun. Part of its main attraction lies in the fact that the actors are only too willing to embrace their roles with tongue-in-cheek abandon. Their improvised-based humor provides a refreshing (a to coin post-religious to the exposition).

The film is weighed down by a repetitive middle part that shows the characters running around in an inebriated scramble as they try to figure out the mayorhey're in. Perhaps it's a more patient to find meaning in all of its chaos, but many of the performances—though uneven—are too colorfully exhilarating to resist.

However, the character switches that are less than successful, look "contaminated" in their attempt to be funny and believable. After all, body-switch comedies require not just skill and experience, but versatility, as well.

Self-deprecation

Domingo is no stranger to playing hard-muscled women with a knack for self-deprecation, so her see-shucks performance here is no surprise. Panganiban, however, is in a class all her own. She shuttles between comedy and drama with equal ease—and her impression of a gay man is nothing short of hilarious—though, she has to start watching that straightly, Ebbby (uranay that's starting to distract more than it should).

Surprisingly, if there's one actress who outperforms them all, it's Smokey Vargas, who sells every line she delivers—even uses the loud and livid excesses common in physical comedy. She demonstrates that comedy isn't always about physical imperfection and vein-popping hamming. She may not always deliver the belly laughs, but she consistently generates resolved laughter that's par for the comedy course.

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